

# SerdangSUN

A Tradition of Giving, a Culture of Bonding

UPM Alumni Magazine



## Extension Education, Widening Participation ► Nayan Arifin

Muhamad Zohadie Bardaie  
**Leaving his Footprints**

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**UPM**  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA



# Green

This issue marks another milestone for UPM Alumni achievement not only for the *Alma mater* but also for some of our distinguished alumni. The Self Accreditation Status awarded to UPM brings great significance and indeed a pride shared by all alumni, especially those that directly were involved in the process. UPM alumni and the campus communities were delighted when our alumni champions were conferred the distinguished awards from the Yang DiPertuan Agong and the happiness attained from the visit of the former and the last of the expatriate Principal of the College of Agriculture to UPM in March.

UPM has histories of creating great brands, not just in its programs and products but also for leading the institution to become a reputed Institution of Higher Learning locally and in the region. Serdang Sun this time features two illustrious Vice Chancellors, they left a very significant impact, each with individuality in steering the university and they

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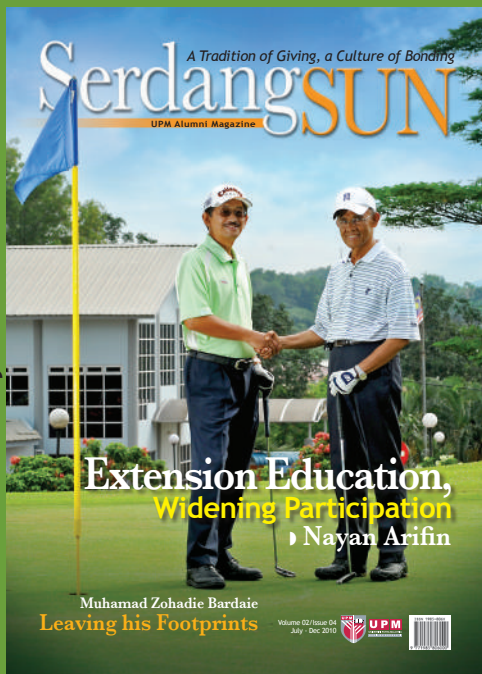
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# Networking

succeeded against all odds. Both with the mission to produce good graduates and bring UPM close to the people.

We are happy to honour outstanding alumni and those people who led the agriculture sector that are gaining prominence through their dedication and commitment, most with a great success. We give special tribute to those who are

passionate to further develop the relations between UPM and the organizations that have direct or indirectly support employability of UPM graduates.

It is a source of my pride and satisfaction to note that since the production of *Serdang Sun*, the two offices the Alumni Centre and the Alumni Association have continued to develop an ever-increasing co-operation. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Alumni strong commitment to vigorously contribute to the growth the *Alma mater* and the ever enthusiastic life-long relation with UPM alumni wherever they are.

I have high hopes that the upcoming issues for the years to come will receive more and more articles from alumni, locally and globally. It is a new turning point in our ever expanding slots for news and expanding relations for the students, this time giving focus on those future alumni and alumni who have had experiences and various ways of engagements while they study in Serdang or Bintulu campus.

We strongly welcome your contribution to expand the columns, where it would truly reflect the thoughts of alumni and that of our future alumni.

**Associate Prof Dr Rohani Ibrahim** (*Dip Agri, 1972*)  
Director of Alumni Centre



...the  
creative  
team...

# Alma ma

## Self Accreditation & Retained as RU

### Another Accomplishment



Again this year another milestone for our beloved *Alma mater*! It is a great accomplishment when the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) awarded the Self Accreditation Status to UPM. The certificate was presented by the Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin in a special ceremony.

The Self Accreditation Status awarded to UPM was based on its Academic Performance Audit (APA) status which was guided by the Code of Practice for Institutional Audit (COPIA) and the submission of a Self-Review Portfolio (SRP). The Self Accreditation Status empowers Institutions of Higher Learning to certify their own courses without having to obtain approval from the MQA and the Ministry of Higher Education. They only need to notify MQA and MOHE, subject to ongoing monitoring and institutional audits by the MQA. This certification is significant for UPM in order to be high performance university and as a leading Research University as it impacts the quality of courses offered.

On this note, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to our Alumni that were involved in the audit process. A luncheon discussion was held in conjunction with

the Self-Accreditation Academic Performance Audit (APA) on 27 January 2010. We are proud of your commitment to be with the APA panel of auditors, your precious time and all the wonderful ideas and opinions has given positive impact to UPM that lead to the achievement of UPM attaining such status.

Indeed it is important to note that UPM status as a Research University was reaudited on April 5th to 6th July and we are happy to inform you that UPM continue to excel and retain its status as an RU. The accomplishment relies on four main aspects, which are the human capital; publication, patent, and intellectual properties, and the generation of revenue as reviewed during the reassessment.

Prof Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah, the VC said “the University’s key success in upholding the status is due to everyone’s commitment and contribution in improving the Quantity and Quality of Research as well as the Quantity of Postgraduates, thus this grants the liberty for the UPM to carry out research activities,” he continued. He hopes that UPM community will thrive in their services and ensure that the RU will remain vital in the coming four years and years ahead. Another key factor that supports such success is the UPM ability to produce employable local and international graduates and has become the point of references for novel ideas and knowledge.

ater's

**PRIDE**



## Prominent Alumni Conferred **TAN SRI**

Congratulations to our prominent alumni; the Vice Chancellor of UPM and the Corporate Advisor of Tradewinds (M) Berhad for being the recipient of the Darjah Panglima Setia Mahkota (P.S.M) which carries the title 'Tan Sri'. The distinguished award was conferred in conjunction with Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah 48th birthday on 5 June 2010.



It is indeed very inspiring for alumni and this legacy in generating outstanding alumni would continue when the two icons were named recipients of this prestigious national award. "Very deserving indeed!", expressed the President of UPM Alumni Association as Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah and Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Mohd Noor Ismail have both glorified UPM in their own ways.

The whole UPM alumni and campus communities wish to congratulate our great alumni, the current Vice Chancellor, Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah and the Corporate Advisor of Tradewinds (M) Berhad, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Mohd Noor Ismail. May God bless them with good health and indeed this wonderful blessing symbolizes the success of UPM alumni.

# Fauzi named New Deputy Vice Chancellor (HEPA)

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)



Congratulations to Professor Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan (Diploma Agriculture, 1981) on his new appointment as the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni, UPM effective from 16 May 2010. The appointment of Professor Fauzi recognizes his previous commitment and services and at the same time elevating him to a level of leadership that will tap his substantial abilities.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr Fauzi back to campus. His leadership and vision will dramatically expand our student affairs and support in developing great plan for the human capital generated by UPM for Malaysia”, said Dr Rohani and Hj Anas Ahmad Nasarudin who are heading UPM Alumni Office and the UPM Alumni Association, respectively. We are happy for him and for the *Alma mater*. Along with the Faculty and all UPM Alumni community, we congratulate him. “We look forward to work with Professor Fauzi as our new Deputy Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs and Alumni (Hal Ehwal Pelajar dan Alumni). For the Alumni Office, it will be a pleasure to serve the University during his tenure as DVC”, said all the staff of the UPM Alumni Centre.

In his new position, Fauzi will support UPM’s effort to build partnerships and develop opportunities and leadership talents amongst students through alumni engagement. With his

reputation for creativity and excellence as a lecturer in UPM, he was greatly involved in student development since April 1986, before leaving for the Ministry of Higher Education as the Director of Student Affairs and Development in 2006. With his return and experience, UPM Division of Student Affairs and Alumni is ideally in a position to bring tremendous growth and innovation to programs that would enhance UPM graduate employability. Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha, the Vice Chancellor of UPM said “Under his leadership, I look forward to see diverse network of Alumni professionals who will join hand to expand UPM’s role and effort to offer better holistic approaches to student development with UPM alumni playing a pivotal part in it.”

The Deputy Vice Chancellor is appointed to oversee students development and just like his predecessors and mentors, Professor Dr Rahim Md Sail (1 Sept 1991 -31 Aug 1999) and Dato



fauzi named new deputy vice chancellor (HEPA)

can provide to those who have chosen to study in UPM. The Division has since enhanced student development and success through innovative programs, services and partnerships with various organizations.

As a result, new value - added programs such as starting school, finishing school and entrepreneur programs were made accessible to all UPM students. In most cases these pre-employment programs were made compulsory with high expectation that UPM generate future alumni are employable and highly demanded by the industry locally and globally.

Fauzi reiterate the importance acquire the generic students attributes with emphasis on communication, critical thinking and problem-solving, ethic and morals and leadership skills. Such skills would transform ones to become good writers, to write books or articles; innovators to discover new vaccine, invent iPhones or become senators/ mayors.

Professor Fauzi said “The true value of Alumni is their sense of pride and belonging to UPM, the two important factors for both local and international alumni to take on with them when they leave campus. It is their duty to be the ambassadors of UPM wherever they are. Importantly these could be accomplished while they are still on campus and as a Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni, I intend to upscale these”, he emphasized.

Dr Idris Abdol (16 June 2000-31 Jan 2003), they believed that Professor Fauzi will steer students development and alumni soundly. They hoped that UPM will continue to inculcate good values to the students along with UPM Alumni’s participation. UPM graduates contribute to the well being of the society, nation and be come part of the global community hence supporting UPM mission to produce quality and employable graduates.

Very enthusiastic and fortitude, Professor Fauzi expressed “Our *Alma mater* provides an excellent education and has track records of producing many alumni who excel in their career endeavours since its College days - we will keep up with the momentum. UPM can produce leaders that lead established corporations nationally and internationally”.

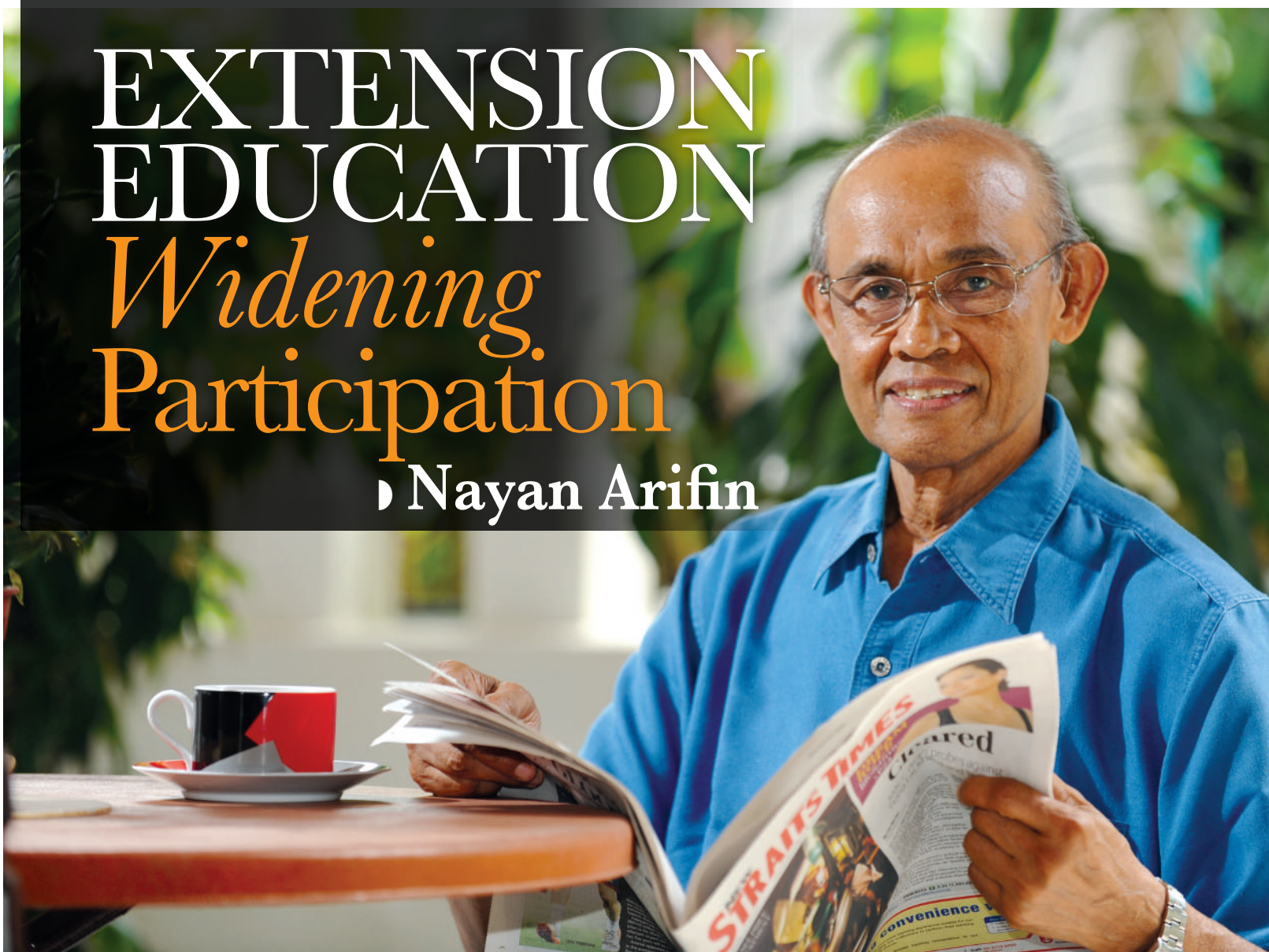
Staff of Student Affairs Division have always supported and promoted the present and future well-being of students. Student development programs have to change in line with the human capital demand nationally and globally. UPM’s recognition as a leading Research University in 2007 indirectly requires this division to develop exceptionally effective programs that will improve the outcomes of student’s academic growth. Thus, it is the Students Affairs Division’s responsibility to set high standards, supporting the staff and student councils to discover the opportunity a higher education



# EXTENSION EDUCATION

## *Widening Participation*

► Nayan Arifin



Mohd Naim Hj Mohd Ishak  
(Bsc. Human Development, 2001; Msc. IT, 2005)  
Zakaria Sidek (Associate Alumni 1982)

**He** is a pioneer and the earliest among the academics to champion extension education in agriculture in the country. It was one of his main aspiration while he was at the helm of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia during its glory days in the 80s and 90s. He believed that through extension education programs and activities, students will be able to develop and hone their skills by sharing their experiences besides applying what they have learnt at the university. Extension education is also an ideal linkages and foster an amicable relationship between the campus and the local community.



**Nayan** comes from a small family of two brothers, he is the younger one. He is married to Puan Sri Hasmah Othman and has three boys and a girl. He completed his primary and secondary education in his home town Penang and obtained his Higher School Certificate in 1954. His interest in agriculture prompted him to continue his education at College of Agriculture Malaya and obtained his Diploma in Agriculture in 1957. He started his career as an Assistant Agriculture Officer at the Department of Agriculture, Kedah from 1957 until December 1966. He then continued his education at Louisiana State University and obtained his bachelor degree in 1968 and his master degree at the same university in 1970 before returning to Malaysia and became a lecturer in UPM (then College of Agriculture Malaya).

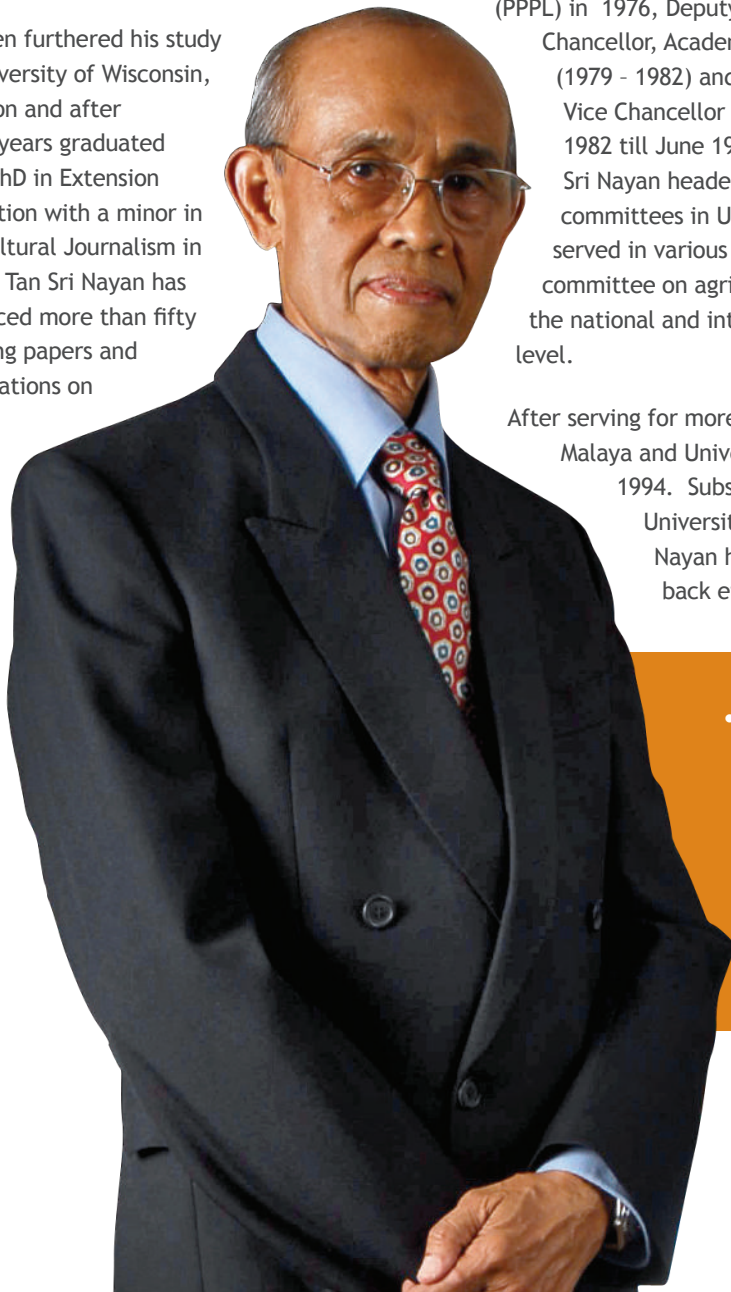
He then furthered his study at University of Wisconsin, Madison and after three years graduated with PhD in Extension Education with a minor in Agricultural Journalism in 1975. Tan Sri Nayan has produced more than fifty working papers and publications on



Extension Education. While at UPM, he held various administrative posts including Head, Department of Extension and Continuing Education (1975), and then the first Director of Centre for Extension and Continuing Education (PPPL) in 1976, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs (1979 - 1982) and finally as Vice Chancellor from March 1982 till June 1994. Tan Sri Nayan headed various committees in UPM and also served in various board and committee on agriculture at the national and international level.



After serving for more than 24 years at his *Alma mater*, College of Agriculture Malaya and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Nayan finally retired in June 1994. Subsequently, he was appointed as a Pro Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia since 2000. As an alumni and pensioner, Nayan has never forgotten his *Alma mater* and kept coming back either in his official capacity or engaged as an alumnus.



**...extension functions give UPM a distinctness that distinguish her from other institutions in this country.**

*(UNIPERTAMA Vol 7 No 1, Jan 1985)*

# Exclusive Interview



Recently the editorial team visited Tan Sri Nayan for an exclusive interview to capture some of his thoughts and aspiration on the role of extension education in UPM in the current scenario and the internationalization of UPM during his term as the second Vice Chancellor.

**SERDANG SUN:** What was the biggest challenge you faced when you were appointed as the second Vice Chancellor of UPM?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** One of the challenges was to ensure UPM continue to contribute to nation building although UPM was basically a uni-disciplinary institution despite that fact UPM offers other agriculture related programs in the field of forestry, veterinary medicine and animal sciences, agricultural engineering, resource economics and agribusiness. These some how limited the new student intake. It is a real challenge to convince the government that UPM can become a multidisciplinary university, with agriculture as the core.

**SERDANG SUN:** What was the biggest change that you made after your appointment?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** The biggest change was to expand all the faculties from purely agriculture based faculties to faculties that have value added disciplines such as introducing other fields of engineering besides agriculture engineering and

more fields of specializations other than agribusiness and resource economics. We also started to make our presence felt and known in the region and the world through our active participations with organizations such as SEARCA, Asian Association of Agricultural Colleges and Universities (AAACU), Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL), Association of Commonwealth Universities and many more. In fact, we finally were able to secure UPM as the country representative in SEARCA after its inception in 1966. By this time, we began the process of renaming the university to match its multidisciplinary image and function, in other word UPM must become a global and multidisciplinary university.

**SERDANG SUN:** Were you able to achieve what you initially plan for UPM?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** Yes, I did. UPM was known globally and our fields of studies increase to include other strategic fields to fulfill the need of the nation. We were on our path to become a truly



multidisciplinary university when our proposal to change the name of the Faculty of Agriculture Engineering to the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Agriculture Economics to the Faculty of Economics and Management were accepted by the Ministry of Education in 1987. We were also successful in increasing the field of specialisations in the renamed faculties. New disciplines such as civil, mechanical, electrical and computer engineering were added to the Faculty of Engineering while accountancy and business management were added to the Faculty of Economics and Management.

This transformation paved the way for UPM to introduce other programs unrelated to agriculture. The next logical step of the transformation plan from a uni-disciplinary university to multidisciplinary university was changing of the name of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia to a more general name and yet maintaining the acronym UPM. This proposal has gone through various committees, the Senate, the University Council and finally to the Ministry of

Education for approval. Unfortunately the proposal was held up at the Ministry of Education until I left the university in 1994.

**SERDANG SUN:** What was your aspiration with regard to agriculture extension when you leave UPM?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** There are great potential especially for graduate studies in Extension Education and it was quite unfortunate that I was unable to complete the goal of turning the Centre for Extension and Continuing Education (PPPL) into the School of Graduate Studies in Extension Education to cater for the need of developing countries in South East Asia and Africa. We are excellent in agriculture extension but I would also like to see that the activities to be expanded to include other fields such as engineering, food technology and economics and for us to provide more in-house extension training services to other agencies in the country. I feel that extension activities are a form of field laboratories where you can practice and translate things you learn in the classrooms.

and the nation need by going direct to the field, do our research and eventually giving it back to the stakeholders through our extension activities. Not only that, by going out to the field to do extension and giving practical demonstration (Method Demo), we are actually improving the soft skills of our students in preparation for their future jobs. Such activities supported and complemented the roles of relevant government agencies concerned with extension such as Department of Agriculture.

**SERDANG SUN:** What do you think about the low ranking given to UPM by international bodies such as THES?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** We have to accept the ranking although I personally feel UPM deserve better ranking. THES ranking include criteria which are not strategic to us and we are not putting a lot of effort. I strongly feel that as long we are fulfilling what the nation, the employers and our stakeholders need and want us to excel, and then we should be satisfied.



“ We are excellent in agriculture extension but I would also like to see that the activities to be expanded to include other fields.... ”

**SERDANG SUN:** Do you feel that agriculture extension is still relevant to UPM?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** It is always relevant and it is in line with our motto “With Knowledge We Serve”. It is a form of giving back. I also feel that through extension we can do better research since we can establish what the community

**SERDANG SUN:** What did you do after your retirement?

**TAN SRI NAYAN:** I am actively involved in a number of foundations related to education such as Yayasan Tunku Abdul Rahman and Yayasan FELDA. I still can contribute to the nation building through these activities.

## “Successful

people and successful businesses leave footprints that can be followed by others. The truly successful people all do THE SAME THINGS. No exceptions. Some of the most successful members of the society are succeeding, not because they are creative and exceptionally gifted, but because they have learned what others are doing that works and then they just “walk in the footprints” and succeed too. And then some of them have even left footprints of their own that others are now following”.



# Muhamad Zohadie Bardaie Leaving his Footprints

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zaitun Yassin (Dip Agri, 1971)

**Muhamad Zohadie Bardaie**, Emeritus Prof. Dato Dr. Ir. (Diploma in Agriculture, 1971) joined UPM as a lecturer in November 1978, after receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell University, USA. He was promoted to Associate Professor in June 1982 and Professor in January 1993 at the Faculty of Engineering. He served as the Head of Department of Power and Machinery Engineering from 1982 to 1984 and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, UPM from 1988 to 1993. Recognizing his potential and leadership quality, he was appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development) in August 1993, a post he held until July 1999. He held the helm of UPM as the Vice-Chancellor from April 2001 until December 2005 and was conferred Emeritus Professor in Bio-system Engineering at the 33rd UPM Convocation Ceremony on 8 August 2009. All these appointments and leadership roles are testimonies of his illustrious service at UPM.

Currently, Muhamad Zohadie is Chairman / Director of Perunding Bakti Sdn Bhd, an engineering consulting company. His other appointments in the corporate sector includes as Executive Chairman, Foresight Industries Sdn Bhd, a manufacturer of medical and surgical disposable products; a member of the Board of Innobio Ventures Sdn Bhd, a government investment company; a member of the Board of Inno Biologics Sdn Bhd, a government biotechnology company, and a board member of UNISEL (Selangor Industrial University), a state-owned private university.

During his five-year leadership and tenure as Vice-Chancellor, UPM is proud to “boast and shout” on a number of achievements and success in many areas including teaching, research, professional services and consultancy, administration, physical facilities and infrastructures. In teaching, ten new UPM programs in various disciplines were offered. The Student-Centered Learning (SCL) system was further strengthened as a way to enhance teaching-

learning in classroom. The Book Plan credit facility was introduced to encourage students to purchase text-books and reference books to facilitate learning. Indeed during his tenure, UPM Graduate School also received recognition for offering the “Top” Masters of Business Administration program in Malaysia, and was ranked 7th in South-East Asia in 2003 and 2004.

It was also during Muhamad Zohadie’s era that the discipline ‘AgroBio’ was given its proper status and established as a niche area. The University’s Agriculture Park was restructured and given a new image and responsibility to support teaching, research and professional services in AgroBio. The IOI chair for Plantation Agriculture and the Airod Sdn Bhd Chair for Aerospace Science and Engineering were established to support research and teaching in these areas.

One of Muhamad Zohadie’s biggest contribution in administration was to draw-up UPM Strategic Plan 2001-2010, which was monitored systematically using the Harvard University Balance Score Card software. Because of his commitment for a Quality Management System, ISO certification was aggressively pursued whereby 10 more cost-centers entitles received their certification during that time. Another initiative by Muhamad Zohadie was the introduction of the “Vice-Chancellor Award”. The award is to recognize the contribution of staff in teaching, research and professional services.

An important policy decision made during his leadership is to ensure UPM properties is used for the interest of UPM only. During his speech at the 100 days as a Vice-Chancellor, he was very resolute on matter pertaining to UPM, *“Kita akan memberi jaminan bahawa semua tanah, kawasan dan harta UPM hanya digunakan untuk tujuan UPM sahaja. Kita akan memastikan segala tindakan tidak menjejaskan kepentingan pengajaran dan pembelajaran.”*

“Putra Gemilang”, UPM song usually heard at all official functions and activities of UPM is one of the footprints left by Muhamad Zohadie during his leadership. The song has created and inculcated the sense of belonging and “esprit de corps” among staff, students and alumni of UPM.

Muhamad Zohadie is a believer in keeping fit and practicing a healthy lifestyle. He was responsible for initiating and promoting the “Gerak Sihat” campaign and the “Cycling Culture” at UPM. This healthy lifestyle campaign was to empower all staff to take charge of their own health, be physically active and for those 40 years and above to go for their annual medical check-up. According to him, *“Sekiranya kita bersenam secara istiqamah atau dengan kerap, insya’Allah kita akan bertambah sihat. Bila sihat, kerja pun tidak tersekat-sekat dan belanja perubatan menjadi jimat. Bila sihat barulah kita tidak mudah penat dan boleh bekerja kuat, lalu tanggungjawab pun dapat dibuat; produktiviti pun meningkat. Kesannya prestasi meningkat, peluang kenaikan pangkat dan pendapatan turut meningkat. Barulah hidup bertambah berkat. Untuk itu, kita kena kuatkan semangat dan tekad.”* (An excerpt of his speech during a “Gerak Sihat” activity on 18 June 2003).

Besides promoting a healthy lifestyle, the policy on Occupational Health and Safety was also launched as a commitment to ensure a conducive and safe work environment through shared responsibility between the university management and its staff.

Although fully retired from UPM, Muhamad Zohadie remains busy, giving his time and ideas to organizations voluntarily. He keeps himself fit playing golf and spends time reading. According to him, playing golf helps to improve one’s skills to plan, manage and strategize, while remaining focus. Golf is not just about how far you can hit the ball....but how well a person plan his game and try to avoid the many obstacles in the golf course.

This soft-spoken man is humble about his achievements and accolades, as he believes in humility. He also believes in himself and his abilities. So according to him, in order to leave significant footprints, one needs to be in front (as a leader) and not behind another person or just being a follower. He certainly has left many footprints to the landscape of UPM. His legacy will always be remembered for many more generation of students and staff population of UPM.



# UPM-NSC

# Strategic Victory

Zaiton Othman (Bac Physical Edu. 1987) Dr. Hanafiah Ayub (PhD Corp. Comm, 2009)



The revolution of transcending sports as a national agenda has always been held close to sports administrators in Malaysia. Sports achievement is truly among the pertinent indicators of a nation's progress and dominance in the global competition of supremacy.

The National Sports Council (NSC), in representing the aspirations of the Malaysian people, ventured into an enhanced platform of creating holistic athletes several years ago. Formalized efforts were strategically planned to ensure all athletes excel in both sports as well as academics. The creation of the National Schools for Sports have indeed played a critical role in ensuring school-going athletes are able to strike a balance between education and sports. The subsequent step was to ensure that athletes who have completed their secondary school are provided with similar infrastructures, programs and support for education in the Institutes of Higher Learning.

Contradictory to the standard school syllabus, athletes have a wide myriad of courses to choose from, and the decision is

indeed life changing when they embark into education in the university. In addition to the multitude of courses to select, the geographical location of a particular higher education institution has significant impact to the possibility of athletes being excellent in their game and academics.

In the early stages of the NSC efforts to venture into this journey, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) prevailed as a pillar of partnership. UPM's pro-active effort to revolutionize the possibilities of education to reach all walks of life lead to the collaborative effort to ensure athletes too are extended all assistance to realize their academic pursuit.



In the highly competitive world of academics, athletes have an enormous challenge to excel in their study while striving to compete in national and international sport competitions. UPM and NSC's first step was to form an explicit partnership via the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 1996 which signified the commitment of both organizations in creating a new dimension of sporting experience for the Malaysian people. The MoU leads the way to the constantly evaluated and reviewed collaboration strategy. Currently, as a result of these relentless efforts athletes are provided with the flexibility of taking minimum number of credits per semester.

This enables the athletes not to have evident breaks in their pursuit to complete their courses, and the credits allow them to constantly be within the

UPM has proven the realization of academic pursuit whilst donning national colours. Our athletes have shown they have the will and capability to excel in both fields. Lee Mun Yee (Diving), Chen Chu Sian (Archery), Roslinda Samsu (Pole Vault), Noraseela Mohd Khalid and V Angama (Athletic, alumni class '87), and Nazmizan Muhamad (Athletic, alumni class 2006) are some of the successful names heard in the international arena. UPM-NSC has jointly revolutionarised the entry pre-requisites to the university by remapping these requirements into a multi-scale evaluation method. This innovation has proven to be successful. Indeed a unique trade. The testimony of its success is annually witnessed during the UPM Convocation and the high employment rate of athletes at leading companies and organizations.

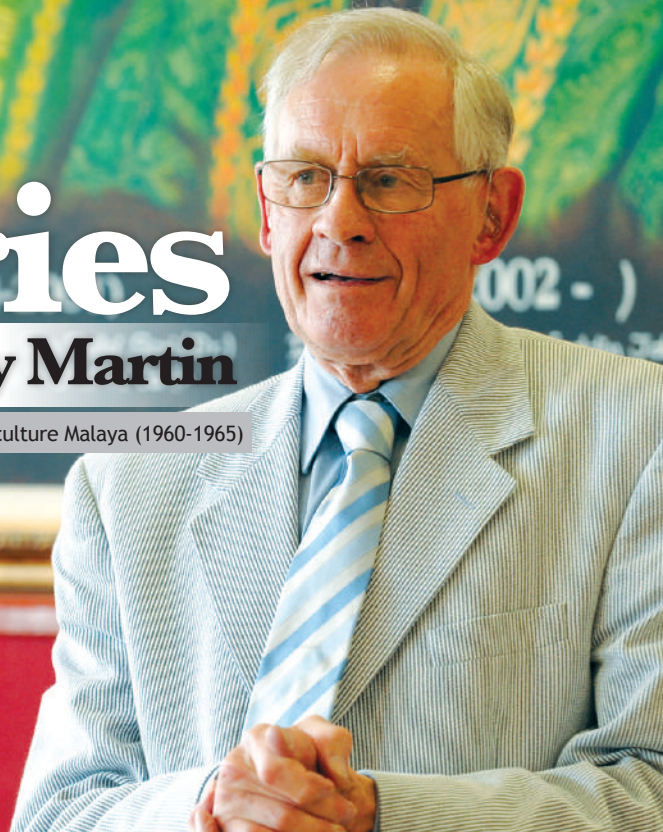
Emulating the success of the Multimedia Super Corridor whereby the industry and universities are geographically located within the same vicinity, UPM and NSC have jointly built an exclusive residential hostel for national athletes. The architecture of the building and design has ensured that athletes are able to maintain their privacy, comfort and ideal environment for learning, with ample opportunities to excel in their chosen sports. The hostel is self-contained with state of the art study rooms, a gymnasium and a well equipped dining hall. UPM and NSC have proven that Malaysia stands unique in the world. The partnership is indeed a beginning to wider horizons in realizing sports as profession and Malaysian athletes will be prevailing class of citizens in this global world of education and sports.



# Invoking Memories

## George Iaian Mackay Martin

George Iaian Mackay Martin (Former Principal, College of Agriculture Malaya (1960-1965))



During the 1950s, I worked in Kedah and Kelantan and at the Department of Agriculture Head Quarters in Kuala Lumpur. Then in 1960, I had the great good fortune to be transferred to the post of Principal of the College of Agriculture at Serdang. At that time the College was the training centre for middle-ranking staff of the Department of Agriculture. It had an intake of some twenty-five students each year and the training period lasted three years, giving a maximum student population of seventy-five.

That number is very small by today's standard but it did have some advantages. Everybody, staff and students knew each other and there was a great atmosphere. We pulled together and were one happy family. Some fifty years later the students of that time are still meeting together and renewing friendships started during their student days.

The major change during my spell at Serdang was the transference of the control of the College from the Department of Agriculture to an Authority of the University of Malaya. An Independent Board then became responsible for the governance of the College.

This change allowed me to initiate an expansion programme for the College, both in facilities and subjects taught. Given the





eventual employment of the majority of our graduates, I was surprised that, up to that point, the curriculum at the College offered no training in extension methods. As part of a review of the subjects taught, it became possible to make a start and offer training in extension technique.

Funds were made available and the first building programme for thirty-one years got under way. New hostel accommodation, with a separate wing for women, was built. This allowed the student numbers to be increased to one hundred and sixty. The farm was extended and new enterprises introduced. In addition, the teaching facilities, laboratories and the library were all improved. These were the first steps in an expansion programme which was to gain considerable momentum in the years ahead and transform the small Serdang College into a leading University, offering education in a wide range of disciplines.

My five years at Serdang was for me, a very happy and fruitful period before I returned to the United Kingdom in 1965 under the Malayanisation programme.

In February 2010, the Senior Management Team at UPM learned that I was to be visiting Kuala Lumpur for a few days in mid-March and decided to invite me, the last expatriate Principal, to an afternoon reception and evening dinner. These were very memorable occasions for me and I wish to put on record my sincere thanks to the staff of UPM for holding these events. I was particularly honoured that the Vice Chancellor, Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah attended on both

occasions. A number of my ex-students spoke of our time together at the College. They were fulsome in their comments and quite discreet regarding any deficiencies on my part!

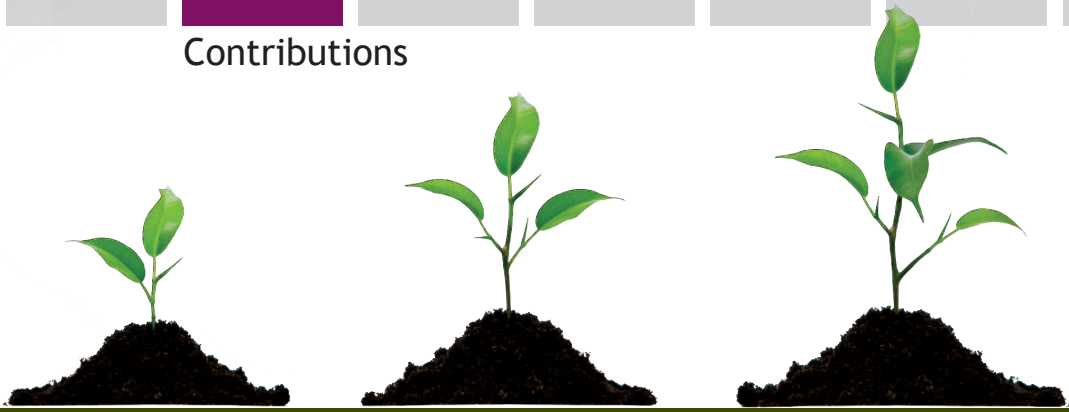
I was very pleased to receive a copy of Othman Yaacob's book 'The Serdang Story'. I congratulate him on documenting the story of the College and the subsequent metamorphosis from Kolej through Pertanian into Putra. I only wish he had found a better photograph of me for Chapter Five.

I am also now the proud possessor of a UPM Alumni tie. It will give me great pleasure to wear it in the future. Not many people in the UK will recognise the tie but, if they ask, it will give me an opportunity to extol the virtues of the institution and my very small part in its history.

With my most sincere thanks to you all:, current staff of UPM and ex-Serdang students.

*Long may the Serdang spirit live....*





# Upholding Agriculture

UPM's close relationship with its agriculture fraternity dated back since the School of Agriculture days in the 30s. Graduates of agriculture have been constantly employed as staff in various -agriculture related organizations in the country, in particular the Department of Agriculture, MARDI, Department of Veterinary Services, Department of Forestry and the plantation sectors. Such partnership remains alive till today as the country progresses to a developed nation. UPM is roles to revitalize agriculture in the last few years are through the strong and exciting connection to alumni that lead these important agencies.

Serdang Sun features some of our alumni leading these agencies and their aspirations for the department and how UPM still stands tall in generating graduates in this discipline.

Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)

# Green Passionately

## Roseley Dato Khalid



**D**atuk Roseley Dato Khalid is the Director General of Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture, holding the post since 19 January 2008. Ever since graduating from UPM in 1977, as the first batch of Bachelor of Agriculture from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia then, he has always been in the Department holding various positions. The 30 years of experience in various capacities in the Agriculture Department locally and oversea (as the Agriculture Attaché in FAO, Rome) (2000-2004) gave him a broader outlook that made him want to brand DOA. This would position the DOA better and exude positive outcomes to the target audience, the farmers. His role is to ensure that the DOA will increase productivity and income of the farmers in line with the Department's tagline 'Agriculture is Business'.

Interesting to note for Khalid, a man that stood close to his heart was his dad, the former Director General of Agriculture (1977 - 1979), Dato Hj Khalid bin Abd Rahman also a former student of School of Agriculture in 1940s, but due to the World War II, he was unable to complete his study in Serdang and was sent to study in UK. Roseley is also truly honoured of his appointment to lead the agency and hopes to fulfill the aspiration of his father and expectation of the government to bring changes to the agriculture landscape of the country. It would be markedly different for Roseley due to the changing times, the era of ICT, he knows that technological advancement is relevant and functional to hasten the transfer of agriculture information to farmers, thus benefiting the socio economy of farming community as a whole.

When he first came on board, the Department was tasked to transform the services provided by the agency. Among others the agriculture extension and advisory services on agriculture, providing guide and technical know how to increase food crop production. Roseley is seen as capable at winning the heart of the farmers, and this certainly came about due to all the goodwill generated by the Department throughout the years when handling their core clientele. The reality on the ground is that he would require committed and dedicated staff to ensure that the Department integrative efforts on agriculture extension together with relevant organizations, farmers' participation, would be a practical approach. An approach that encourages, enhances and brings changes in the attitudes of extension staff, researchers and the farmers, as they have one goal in mind, to turn agriculture into business activities and thus improve the livelihood of the farmers.

Datuk Roseley recapped how historically UPM was closely linked to the Department of Agriculture, since the colonial days since the School of Agriculture and today UPM remains the key institution of higher learning that produced skilled manpower in agriculture needed by the country, in particular DOA. These graduates fitted well in the Department of Agriculture; indeed he is very happy that DOA continues to get talents whom he believes would ensure the DOA's core responsibility is successful.

Datuk Roseley reiterated the importance for DOA to expand the farmers need to be relevant to the philosophy / concept of ONE MALAYSIA 'People First, Performance Now' or '*Rakyat Didahulukan, Pencapaian Diutamakan*', where the primary beneficiaries are the farmers. In his keynote address in conjunction with Conference on Agriculture Conference 2010 reiterated DOA's firm commitment to remain unique as the Department under the Ministry that shapes our national agriculture. All of which will eventually lead to Agriculture as a Business. Reviving the old well-tested approach, he outlines three components namely biweekly visits by extension agent to JKKK (Rural Working Sub Committee, training of extension agent by SMO and visit by specialist in the agriculture business.

These three will eventually strengthen the implementation of Techno Agriculture Extension System - the production of foods using technology available by MARDI etc. For example, the group of DOA would take out commercial contract farming of greens to supply, our regular basis, big outlet branch as TESCO etc. Farmers will produce whatever there is a steady market- eg. tobacco, watermelon in the east coast state to cite a few.

UPM is proud of his appointment and will continue to support him in the extension research programs that will bring benefits to both the farmers as well to disseminate new research discoveries that will hasten wealth creation for Malaysian through agriculture productivity.





MARDI & UPM  
 “a Lifelong Partnership”

Mohammad Abdullah (Dip. Agric. 1975; Bac. Agric Eng. 1990)  
 Wan Faridah Wan Jaafar (MSc. Corp. Comm., 1998)

**G**eographically MARDI and UPM are neighbours. Prior to 2000, UPM was the main gateway to MARDI. However, this was changed with new exit/entry points offered by the LDP-SKVE expressways belting MARDI. With Putrajaya, Hospital Serdang and Malaysia Agriculture Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) as the new neighbours, UPM is gradually displaced as MARDI’s landmark.

Going back into history, when MARDI was established in 1969, UPM was then the Kolej Pertanian. MARDI was then honoured to have Dr. Mohd. Rashdan Baba (Tan Sri Dato’ Professor) and Mr. Othman Yaacob from Kolej Pertanian as the Chairman and member of MARDI Scientific Council respectively. MARDI do also have other UPM pillars, namely Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ir. Muhamad Zohadie Bar daie (2001 - 2005) and Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah (2006 - 2008) as council members. Emeritus Prof. Tan Sri Dato’ Dr. Mohd. Rashdan Baba also took the helm of MARDI’s Governing Board in the capacity of chairman (1977 - 1983).

No ready-to-use statistics is available to verify the number of human resource produced by Kolej Pertanian/ UPM working with MARDI since inception to the current. Suffice to note that the current MARDI top echelons, the Director General, Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor Abd Rahman; his two

deputies, Dato’ Dr. Sharif Haron and Ariffin Tawang, and the Senior Director (Operations), Ahmad Sayuti Yusuff, were all schooled at UPM for their basic BSc. degrees. Most of the current MARDI line-up of directors and senior researchers too went to UPM at some point in their life.

A MARDI-UPM memorandum of understanding was signed in 1983 pertaining to student industrial training, a function which MARDI has diligently fulfilled to the present day. The 2008 and 2009 statistics indicated that close to 150 UPM students underwent their industrial training in MARDI. Several MARDI senior researchers are also advisors and co-advisors for UPM MSc. and PhD candidates. Reciprocally, MARDI also send its scientists for their MSc. and PhD degrees at UPM. Currently nine and 32 MARDI scientists are pursuing their PhD and MSc. degrees, respectively at UPM.

Character building through harsh orientations, especially the Serdang sun bathing and the aromatic royal baths



during the UPM student days imbued to the present. The blending had molded the dynamic yet humbled-hearted UPM graduates presently working in MARDI. This character very much describes MARDI's current CEO, Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor Abd Rahman (*pic*). Shukor enrolled as a UPM student in 1973 to graduate in 1978. He started working as a MARDI research officer in the Food Technology Division before pursuing his MSc. (1983) and PhD (1993) degrees at the University of Florida, USA. He returned to the USA in 2003 for his Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School.

As a postharvest scientist, Shukor pioneered works on modified/controlled atmosphere storage of banana and pineapple enabling long distant haulage of the fruit to far away markets. He initiated work on the minimal processing of fruits and vegetable but has to leave the project to his collaborators with his rise in the MARDI echelon.

His ascend started with his appointment as the Director of Horticulture Research Centre in 1997-2004. He later assumed the position of Deputy Director General (Research) in 2004 and to finally hold the coveted Director General post in 2005.

Being an exemplary researcher himself, his aspiration as the Director General is to see MARDI as a world-class organization. His emphasis is on the development of comprehensive research plans addressing market needs and meeting-up to global challenges. His comprehensive 'farm-to-table' research approach ensured that MARDI developed technologies meet the stakeholders' expectations commanding a commercialization percentage way above the national average.

With the organization maturing, MARDI is besieged by staff mandatory retirements. This is an untimely setback, especially for an R&D organization, as time is needed for researchers to reach maturity and capable of doing independent research. To check this knowledge flight, Shukor embarked on an aggressive staff recruitment and mentoring programs. Turning full circle, the pool and resources developed by UPM was sought. This could have been a repeat of the late 70s and early 80s recruitment, should UPM maintained its agriculture status.

In spite of this evolution are avenues for MARDI-UPM relationship persevered. The development of UPM's medical and health science facilities is seen as an area where collaboration can be enhanced, albeit away from traditional agriculture fields. While the upstream herbal and pre-clinical research remained with MARDI,

UPM is now in position to continue with the clinical research. Together both institutions can help enhance the country's new wealth capitalizing on the diverse bio-resource.

UPM's engineering school's expansion into electronics and material sciences worked to both organizations' advantages. While crop physiology and agronomy remain as MARDI's realm, collaboratively UPM can come in with sensor technology and renewable new materials. Together both can expand and enrich the country's agriculture sector.

As a seat for new knowledge generation, MARDI will continuously look to UPM to progress in the new sciences. An exemplary effort is in the development of bio-processing technology with the use of enzymes. Inputs from both organizations have enabled the production of virgin coconut oil via an enzymatic pathway. Collaborative efforts from both organizations have helped revitalize the country's coconut industry.

Avenues are expanding for both organizations to help advance tropical agriculture. This aspiration can be achieved with organizations leveraging on each others' expertise. Celebrating its 40 year anniversary in 2009, MARDI is raring to be on the go.



# HUMAN CAPITAL for Malaysian Agriculture

Zakaria Sidek (Associate Alumni, 1982) • Prof Dr. Mad Nasir Shamsudin (Dip Agri, 1978)

“

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

(Chinese proverb)

”



Globalisation and trade liberalisation were the rallying cries of the early 2000's and as a consequence, the world economic system today is much more open than it was a decade ago. Competitiveness will be on an international basis and it is decided on the capacity to add value to global economic products, services and processes. For agriculture, beside technological changes, the key competitive weapon for the 21st century will be the knowledge and skills of the workforce.

Historically, academic institutions have tended to serve as institutions for moral and intellectual development as well as centres of civilisation, but with the changing scenario, they must be responsive to changes including trade liberalization and globalisation, technological advancement, environmental awareness, limitation

of resources and changing consumer taste. The manpower training in agri-food sector should be in tune with the changing scenario and generate knowledge workers competent in economics and business, new technologies and entrepreneurial skill. To further strengthen the training in agri-food education, graduates can participate in entrepreneurship incubation programme, domestic and international internship, active involvement of the agri-food business firms in education training policy, and inculcation of good work ethics. There should also be serious efforts to attract high achiever students for agricultural studies.

Human resource development (HRD) in the agri-food sector is mentioned in various policy thrusts. In the NAP3 HRD is regarded as an economic foundation to further increase efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of the agri-food

sector. Emphasis on HRD is towards the supply of skilled manpower at the R&D, entrepreneurial, managerial and operational or workforce levels for new and emerging areas.

When the fourth Prime Minister presented his 2005 Budget Speech and touched on agriculture, he mentioned that the nation wished “to develop skilled manpower by transforming Universiti Putra Malaysia into a centre of excellence for agriculture education“. This is something expected for UPM, an institution with a humble beginning as Sekolah Pertanian that became Kolej Pertanian Malaya, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia and later developed into a multi disciplinary Universiti Putra Malaysia.

As the first higher education institution in the nation that has an agriculture faculty, UPM is expected to lead the nation in agriculture related human

capital building. In line with UPM objectives to produce multi-disciplined graduates, the Faculty of Agriculture, have embarked on a number of programs and measures to ensure that they are at the forefront of agriculture education. The actions consist of strengthening the current academic programs through periodic curriculum reassessment and evaluation where changes were made to

Science (Agribusiness), Bachelor of Agriculture (Aquaculture) and Bachelor of Agriculture (Animal Science). Currently all diploma programs are offered by the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the UPM Bintulu Campus.

In line with the requirement of the Ministry of Higher Education, soft skill developments are embedded in the

income economy and developed nation by 2020. One of the ten big ideas is nurturing, attracting and retaining top talent or human capital. Internships, entrepreneurship, soft-skill training, nurturing innovativeness and job placement initiatives are some of the strategies planned to enhance the future human capital of the Malaysian agricultural sector.



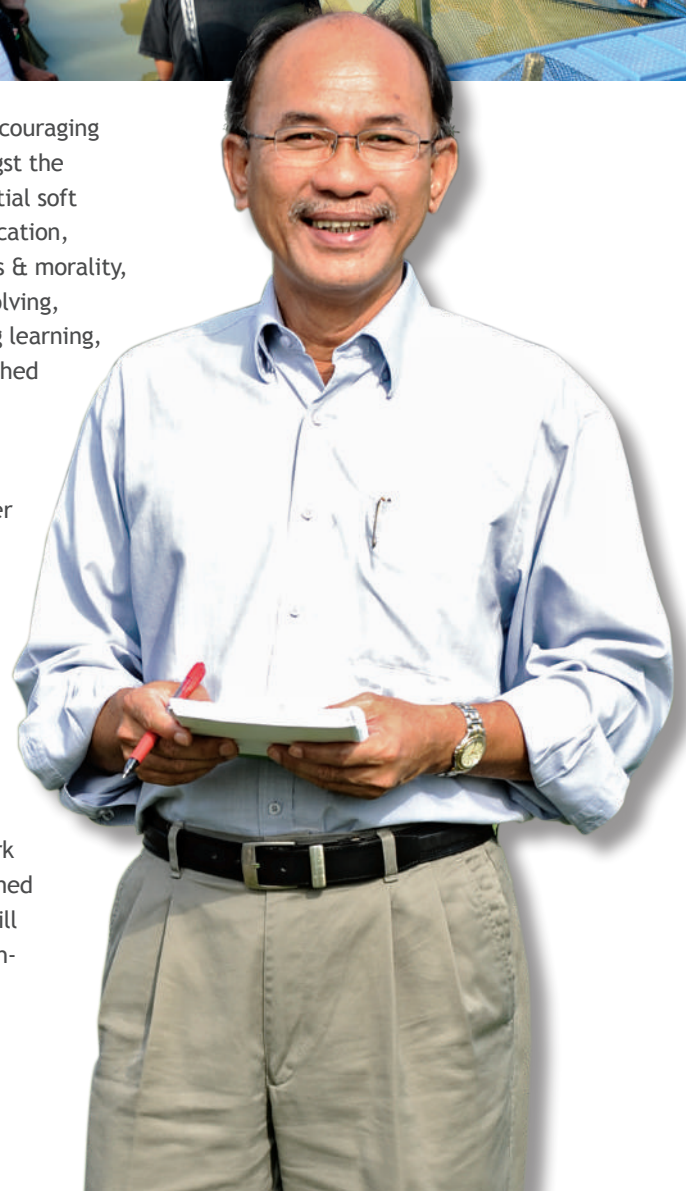
suit the current scenario and needs, and offering new program that are strategic and relevant for nation building.

One of the major improvements is the formalization of industrial training as part of the curriculum where undergraduates are required to be attached to any agriculture-related organization for one semester towards fulfilling their academic requirement. It is envisioned that this attachment will enrich the student's classroom learning with real life experience in the field, thus increasing the graduates' employability.

The faculty started with two programs in agriculture, namely the Diploma of Agriculture which dated back to the College of Agriculture and Bachelor of Agriculture Science which started when Universiti Pertanian Malaysia was formed in 1971. Currently the faculty offers 4 other programs, namely the Bachelor of Horticultural Sciences, Bachelor of

curriculum in UPM besides encouraging co-curricular activities amongst the students. Amongst the essential soft skills attributes are communication, leadership, team work, ethics & morality, critical thinking & problem solving, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning, all of which can be accomplished through formal co-curriculum courses or non formal co-curricular activities. In this light, UPM is one of the earlier universities having taken steps to ensure graduates are also given soft skills capability besides the formal education they receive at the university.

In the Tenth Malaysia Plan (2011-2015) unveiled recently, the policy framework and strategies were transformed into the 10 Big Ideas which will enable the nation to be a high-



Dr. Md. Yusof Husin (Dip Agri, 1969)

# From Don to Entrepreneur

## "Growing & Exporting Orchid Cut-flowers"



After serving the Universiti Putra Malaysia as Dean and Professor of Entomology, Dr. Md. Yusof Husin retired in 2004. He and his wife, Dr. Norani Tan Sri Abd Samad as directors and owners together with two other directors of Hexagon Green Sdn Bhd pioneered the commercial production of orchid tissue culture at the company's first plant tissue culture laboratory (rented factory lot) in Taman Industri Selaman, Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor. Three years later, they started the first commercial bumiputra orchid cut-flower farming at Bukit Changgang Agrotechnology Park, Banting, Selangor. Dr. Yusof as manager of the tissue culture business and Dr. Norani, the orchid farm manager, conduct the day-to-day operations mainly producing in vitro orchid, banana, vanilla, strawberry, chrysanthemum plantlets and hybrid orchid cut-flowers for the local and overseas markets.



Hexagon Green Group of companies is made up of Hexagon Green Sdn Bhd, (HGSB) incorporated in 1997, a wholly-owned Malaysian holding company (Reg. No. 439194-A) handles the commercial production and marketing of orchid cut-flowers and Hexagon Green Biotech Sdn Bhd (HGBSB) incorporated in 2008 (Reg. No. 806693-P), a subsidiary with the Bionexus (BNX 200115) status biotechnology (dealing with tissue culture) handle contract supply on plantlets to private and state-owned plantations and nurseries.

The HGSB, as a government-appointed anchor company pioneered the state-wide program on the development of orchid biotech entrepreneurs involving 20 participants from various districts of Selangor (Bangi, Klang, Beranang, Sg. Buloh, Kapar, Puncak Alam, Puchong) and Putrajaya in 2007/2008.

In the last 5 years, production of plantlets from its tissue culture laboratory at Makmal Flora Vitro, Nuclear Malaysia Technology Park, Bangi, Selangor has reached 1 million. On the other hand, its 5-Ac commercial orchid farm at Bukit

Changgang Agrotechnology Park, Banting, Selangor has started exporting more than 100,000 cut-flowers since 2009. Leveraging on biotechnology, Hexagon Green set its vision to be amongst the leading company in the field of high-tech biotechnology producing agro-bioindustrial products in South East Asia. The company's mission is to develop a network of nurseries and suppliers of high quality and novel tissue-cultured planting materials. Besides, the company also provides services in design and construction of commercial orchid net-houses, plant cloning or micropropagation of various crop plants, ornamentals, spices and herbs, training courses and internship, advisory and management consultancy and marketing.

Unlike most of his peer academicians who continue to serve UPM as contract lecturers, Dr. Yusof retired into minding his own business. He regards himself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" and has taken on a "mission impossible" journey. One has to undergo a mind shift and a transformation process to be the like of Dr. Yusof. He and the other directors have groomed the company



to become the first bumiputra private company to produce commercial tissue-cultured orchids and orchid cut-flowers which are exported to Australia, Japan and Europe. In line with the company's expansion plan, Hexagon Green Group is now offering and franchising its expertise and orchid cut-flower farming system to selected local and foreign clients for the development of independently owned and operated orchid entrepreneurs.

To develop 1,000 commercial orchid entrepreneurs within 5 years on a 3,000 Ha farmland which will generate fresh orchid cut-flowers worth RM 1.0 billion annually is the company's national orchid vision.

Dr. Yusof's success did not come cheap and easy. He proudly attributed his success to the power of Serdang's sun he received while dutifully doing his fieldwork and sharefarm during his student days at the College of Agriculture Malaya, (1966-1969).

“Have the courage to change what you can, the wisdom to accept what you cannot change and the ability to know the difference”

His Batu Pahat High School's motto - "Nunc Aut Nunquam" (Now or Never) lives on in his life.

# IASS Collaborating for the Future

Boey Tze Zhou (BSc. Agri, Semester 5, 2010/2011)



**Yes!** We did it! Finally... the 2nd International Agriculture Students Symposium (IASS) is over! uttered my committee member. Words of encouragement flashed to my mind when we bid “Selamat Jalan” to the last batch of participants from Niigata University, Japan at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 20th of July, 2010. I was excited when Serdang Sun invited me to write about IASS. It was a pleasant surprise and indeed an honour for me to share what we did and went through to ensure the success of the 2nd IASS held from 11 to 20 July 2010.

I recalled the moment when I have to decide whether to take up the post as the Chairman of the 2nd IASS Organising Committee. I received many advices from my friends and family members - many said that I will have to choose between my academic and organizing this IASS. This was an option which I have to choose, as ones have to be successful in both aspects for they are both important for my future. I was determined to take up the challenge and accepted the post and unknowingly this was beginning of my most valuable and wonderful semester so far in UPM. Fortunately, I was not alone, I was so grateful that I have a team of enthusiastic friends who dedicatedly shared the same

lecturers from all around the world to exchange knowledge and ideas, and also to build up international networking for future collaboration of students in agriculture, aside from the knowledge we gained through intellectual exchange and language. The theme “Agriculture: Sharing and Collaborating for a Better Future”, fitted very well. A total of 44 papers and several country reports were presented. We shared our knowledge and experiences with fellow participants. Topics ranged from agriculture education, agriculture technology, entrepreneurship and economics, the environment and food production. It was indeed an eye opener for many of



vision and mission to give back to the Faculty and UPM. Besides, as UPM students, IASS aims to assist the internationalization of UPM as well as enhance our knowledge, experience, international networking and soft skills.

Clear on what we intended to achieve, we embarked on the ‘journey’ that we have never experienced before. As expected, we faced several challenges, though sometimes the problem can be solved by the members of the team; however some are beyond the capability of students. We were fortunate the faculty top management and advisor were very supportive and assisted us. Their words “Keep it up! This is a learning process” gave us the encouragement when we faced problems. Indeed the committee have learned to work as a team.

We worked hard for more than six months and indeed were worth the effort. We managed to get participation from 13 universities from nine countries such as Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India, Oman and Australia, and secured 53 participants - 39 international and the remainder UPM students. The symposium was a platform for students, even

us who did not have the opportunity to visit any of these countries. The knowledge and information that we acquired made us appreciate how lucky we were to be Malaysian and UPM students. We made new friends and have begun a strong network amongst them. This provides us with many opportunities for collaboration in the future. We strongly believed that UPM students and the delegates have greatly benefited from the symposium.

I am very proud to be one of the agriculture students in UPM. I always reminded myself about the significance of UPM’s motto “With Knowledge, We Serve”. I am learning to do now to serve my family, university, community and country as I am doing it now and I aim to continue doing it in the future. This is an opportunity I would hope to share my experiences and what I learnt in UPM with other UPM students. Organising the 2nd IASS gave me the lesson that “A bad team makes possible become impossible; a good team makes impossible things become possible!” As a future alumnus, I am ever ready to contribute to the betterment of UPM and branding my *Alma mater*. I had wished my fellow students share the same enthusiasm as I did.



# LIM VOON CHING'S *Engagement with* BINTULU CAMPUS

Lim Voon Ching (Dip of Forestry, Semester 3, 2010/2011)



**Every** Saturday, Lim Voon Ching walks uphill for 10 minutes to the Student Centre Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bintulu Campus (UPMKB), Sarawak through the lush greenery views of hills with only one purpose on her mind - to attend Martial Arts training. And it is not just any ordinary sport that she takes part in. More often that not, everyone would throw her a look of disbelief or are even skeptical, when they are informed that she takes up Taekwondo in her free time.

The second child of Hokkien and Cantonese origins, Voon Ching or 'VC' as she is fondly known by her friends, hails from Petaling Jaya. She previously attended schools in Selangor and held the post of President for the Taekwondo Club and several other co-curricular societies in her secondary school. Whilst in school, Voon Ching participated in a number of national-level Taekwondo competitions, and at one point, even represented the Selangor state in MSSM Chess in year 2008. After completing her Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia with flying colours, Voon Ching proceeded to continue her studies at UPMKB in year 2009 and she hopes to earn her Diploma of Forestry. And that was how she landed in the state of Sarawak.

Indeed, Voon Ching's star shone even more brightly while at UPMKB. There, she even had more opportunities to take part in both UPMKB's curricular and extra-curricular activities. In March 2010, she was granted the honour to represent the UPM Sarawak campus in the Open Taekwondo Championship for Higher Education Institutions (Public and Private), which was held in Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Voon Ching was very honoured to have had the opportunity to represent UPMKB in the Opening Match during the Opening Ceremony, where she was lined up against her opponent, who represented the Universiti Malaysia Sabah. According to her, this was a very rare moment for her and although Voon Ching was defeated out of the number one spot in the competition, this energetic lass did not settle for anything less, and managed to grab a Bronze medal to bring back for UPM. Needless to say, this was also a very proud moment for her *Alma mater*, UPMKB.

Besides representing UPMKB for Taekwondo competitions, Voon Ching is also actively involved in various other activities on campus. A natural leader, she was elected as part of the Academic Bureau for Block H at her Residential College. She also helped and briefed new students about the current available ongoing programmes, which were organised by UPMKB for their undergraduates. The *Program Buku Hijau*, for example, is a programme that enables students to learn how to grow crops practically and to develop their soft skills on growing crops. Besides this, Voon Ching was also the project director for the Ping Pong course, which is one of the co-curriculum courses offered on campus. Now, new students entering UPMKB will have the opportunity to get to know Voon Ching personally as she has recently been chosen by UPMKB to be one of the *Pembantu Universiti (PU)* or University Facilitators to help guide new students during the Orientation Week for UPMKB's next intake of 2010/2011.

Voon Ching is happy with all her accomplishments so far, and knows that she is destined for more, and that her achievements would not just end upon her graduation from UPMKB. She intends to work very hard and to continue to train harder for her upcoming tournaments. She is also determined to be a



Whilst in school, Voon Ching participated in a number of national-level Taekwondo competitions, and at one point, even represented the Selangor state in MSSM Chess in year 2008.

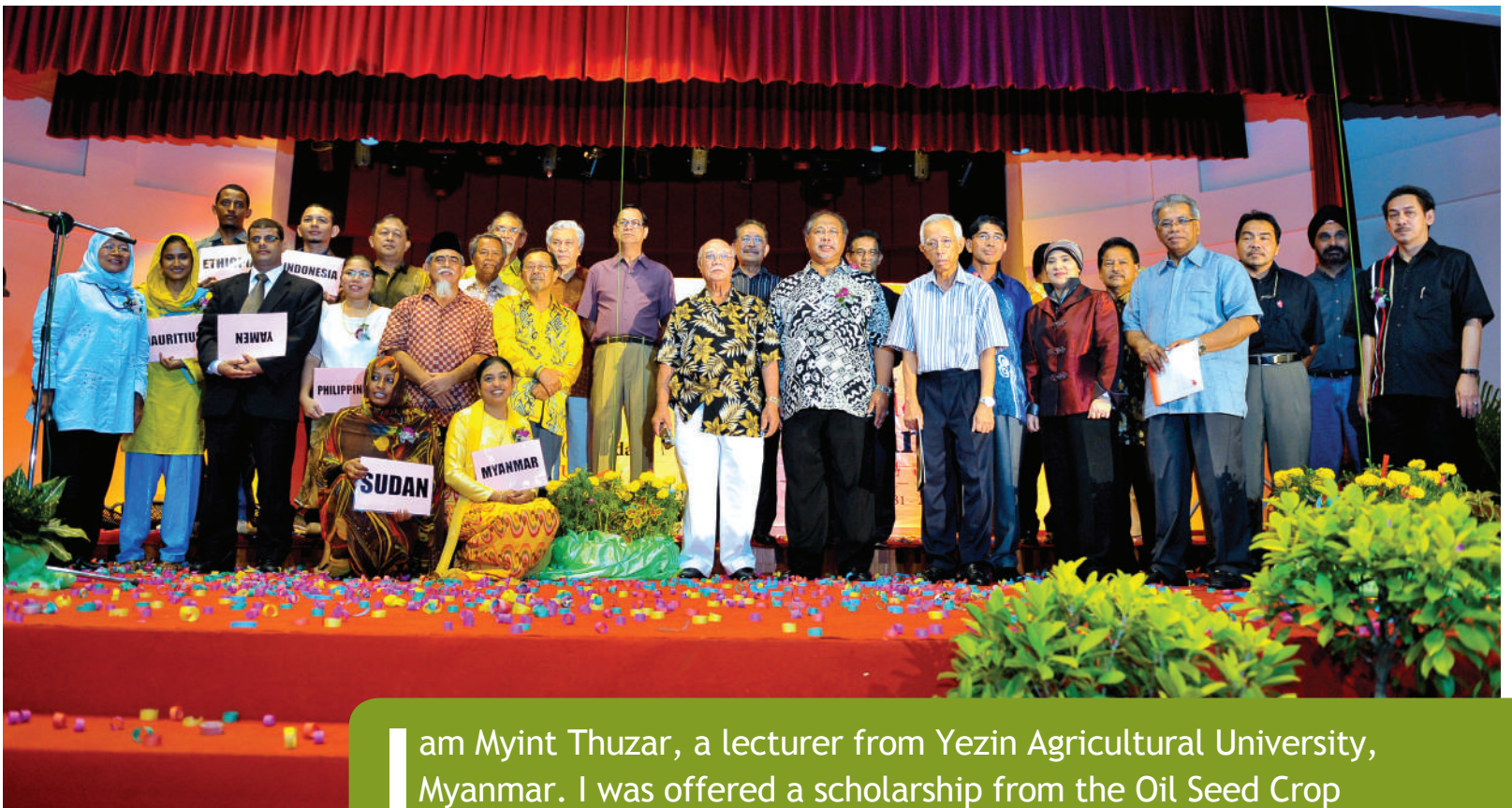


well-rounded student - good academically and looks forward to represent UPMKB in not only Taekwondo tournaments, but other co-curricular activities whether they are done locally or internationally.

Voon Ching is extremely proud to be a core team member of the Bintulu Campus programmes, and expresses her gratitude to her lecturers and coaches for the constant belief and support that they have given her since she became a student at UPMKB. Feeling very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be engaged in various different programmes in UPMKB, Voon Ching agrees that these experiences have given her a definite headstart and she is ever ready to face the challenging world with her chin up and a smile, when she eventually graduates from UPMKB, and becomes an alumni of UPM.

# MY RICH CAMPUS Experience

Myint Thuzar (PhD (Seed Science & Technology),  
Semester 8, 2010/2011)



I am Myint Thuzar, a lecturer from Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar. I was offered a scholarship from the Oil Seed Crop Development Project Technical Assistant by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). I have successfully completed seven semesters of my Doctor of Philosophy programme in Seed Science and Technology at the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM.

My experiences as a UPM student have been positive. Firstly, I am impressed with UPM's excellent research and laboratory facilities as well as the number of reference materials available at the library. My Supervisor and the Supervisory Committee comprised of highly knowledgeable lecturers from the Faculty of Agriculture - all are experts in their respective fields. Approachable and helpful, they effectively share and impart their skills and knowledge to their students. UPM also actively collaborates with several local and international organisations on research programmes. This helps to attract grants and foreign scientists who further enhance UPM's credibility globally. UPM places great emphasis on producing highly skilled, quality competent graduates who are well-rounded individuals with pleasant personalities.

I consider my university life experiences at UPM to be truly holistic, especially with my involvement in the International Students Association (UPMISA), International Affairs and the UPM Alumni Centre - where I often volunteer in their talent pool programmes. I have also learnt to appreciate various cultures, cultivated a new hobby and was mindful that university life was not just about academics but consisted of many other components too. I have participated in many programmes at UPM including the International Leadership, Home Stay and the International Students Mobility

I certainly cherish these colourful experiences, which have moulded me into who I am today. From the start, I knew that my student life at UPM would be challenging, yet rewarding and enjoyable.

Programme organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia (MOHE).

Overall, I have tremendously enjoyed my student life in UPM, successfully balancing between both academic and my international student activities. I certainly cherish these colourful experiences, which have moulded me into who I am today. From the start, I knew that my student life at UPM would be challenging, yet rewarding and enjoyable. After all, what better ways than to study at a truly global university which offers quality and international education, with a serene and peaceful campus environment to be in. I strongly believe UPM will emerge ahead of others and shall become a 'World Leader in New Tropical Agriculture'.

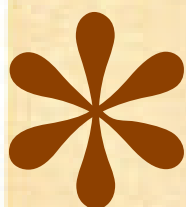


As a symbol of my gratitude and love to my *Alma mater*, UPM, I will continue to uphold its motto of 'With Knowledge We Serve' in my future careers.



# Nostalgic Memories in UPM\*

Prof. Hj. Romziah Sidik, (PhD (Animal Nutrition), 1987)



**Sweet** memories and feelings of pride for an unforgettable time during my study in UPM (1982-1986) to pursue a PhD program at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (now known as Faculty Veterinary Medicine). Experiences during this time was invaluable especially when I have to study a varied subjects such as research design, biostatistic, animal nutrition, biochemistry and English to analysis of data, writing the thesis and defending it.

Reminiscing one event with pride was that my master was converted to a PhD program, of course with the recommendation of my supervisor, Prof Tan Sri Dato' Dr Syed Jalaluddin Syed Salim (presently the Chairman of the Board of Directors, UPM). With that I had to increase the objectives of my research entitled '*Management of Setaria sphacelata varietas splendida grazing pasture by Kedah Kelantan Cattle*' from three to five. I had two co-supervisors, Dr. Ian Lane (UK) and Dr. Pravee Vijchulata (Kasetsart University, Thailand), who helped me through the program successfully. I am also indebted to the late Emeritus Prof Dr M.R. Jainudeen for the thesis writing as my English was not so good. One aspect that contributed to my success was the effectiveness of inter-faculty collaboration in UPM. The analysis of mineral elements was carried out using *Atomic Absorbance*, bones and fatty acid using *High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)* were done at the Department of Soil Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Forestry. Both assisted in the analysis of mineral and others.





Facilities for growing *Setaria sphacelata* var *splendidadi* II pasture at Field 2 and 10 was excellent and together with 28 bulls of Kedah-Kelantan breed, aroused my excitement in doing the research, reason being I could also learnt management of pasture by directly fertilizing the grass and managing Kedah-Kelantan cattle. During this period I was assisted by many supportive staff who eventually became my good friends, Shing, Tukiran, Goffa and Sani. One unique experience that happened to me was that my experimental cows became tame and docile and responded to me when I called their names, thus making my work easy and enjoyable even though under a hot sun. I would spray them with water or just poured water on their heads which they enjoyed very much. I am one veterinarian who love and fond of animals. Imagine! These originally wild cattle grazing in the field, eventually could be docile and cooperative, easy to handle.

Another fond memories of UPM was the formation of "Association of International Post-Graduate Students (AIPS)" whose members comprised of International students from Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Australia, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Malaysia. Through AIPS, we formed a good and strong 'family' bonding. Many programs such as meetings and gatherings to discuss the association, planned activities and studies were conducted. These include gatherings such as *Hari Raya*, Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Christmas. At these occasions we were invited to the open houses and special gatherings and events. I am still in contact with a few of the lecturers like Assoc Prof Dr Kalthum and Dr Sharifuddin Wahab (Malaysia), Prof Dr Saw Plei Saw (Myanmar), Prof. Djoko Soetrisno, Prof. Dr Hasan and Dr. Mudiantono (Indonesia). It is a pity that I lost contact with my friends from the Phillipines.

Praise be to Allah SWT that gave me the strength and guidance that by mid-1986, I completed successfully my doctorate program at UPM and was conferred a PhD degree in 1987.

That was my proudest moment! Back in Indonesia, I continued working at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Airlangga (UNAIR) lecturing in Animal Nutrition and Animal Production. As an academican, I also conducted research and provided support services to the community. By the year 2005, I was promoted as a Professor, thus increasing my responsibilities especially when I was appointed to be the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Airlangga University. It was through this position that I mooted the collaboration between the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine UPM and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UNAIR. The latest was the formation of the South East Asia Veterinary School Association (SEAVSA) in February 2010.

Indonesia listed a number of post-graduate alumni UPM, and in 2009 in Yogyakarta, our alumni have agreed to form UPM Alumni Association (UPMAA), chaired by Prof. Djoko Soetrisno Ir.MSc PhD from the University of Gajah Mada (UGM), Vice-Chairman Prof. Dr. Rahayu Ernawati (Airlangga University) MSc drh, and Secretary Prof.Dr. Ismoyo Ir. Msc. (UGM). Its members include academic staff from the University of Airlangga, Universitas Gajah Mada, Universitas Diponegoro, Universitas Bengkulu, North Sumatra University, Medan, the Institute for Science and Research Indonesia. The aim is to establish relationship and networking with UPM. Hopefully later UPMAA is able to collaborate in scientific activities and social community development.

**Finally, I am a very proud alumnus of UPM and with this knowledge, I will serve my country and *Alma mater*. May Allah continue to give glory to the progress of UPM to become a reputed University.**

*\*translated by Kalthum Hashim (MSc 1984)*

# 2010 so far...



**27 Jan** • Alumni lunch with MQA auditors for the Academic Performance Audit (APA) by MOHE



**22 March** • - The last Expatriate Principal, College of Agriculture Malaya visits to UPM - GIM Martin with VC, former staff and students



Former Directors Department of Agriculture state of Kedah (Syed Farooq, GIM Martin, Salbi Ranting)



**23 March** • Malam Sireh Pulang ke Gagang (homecoming) organised by Kolej Tun Dr Ismail (KTDI) Alumni Chapter - FORTIGA



### Alumni Giving Back



**26 March** • 30 years celebrations of Alumni Engineering



**10 Aug** • UPM Strategic Plan 2011- 2013 briefing to alumni community and industry

**UPM Alumni Day 21 May**  
(21-22 May 2010)



**20 May** • *Majlis Tahlil dan Kesyukuran* at Masjid UPM  
**21 May** • *Forum Serdang Heritage 'Merealisasikan Berilmu Berbakti'* held at PKKSSAAS

**Homecoming V - Alumni Friendly Sport**



**15 May** • *Bowling at the Mines Bowl* in conjunction with UPM Alumni Day  
**22 May** • *Alumni Golf and friendly rugby game Angels & Ex-Angels team*





**Homecoming V Dinner**  
 22 May • Highlights of UPM Homecoming V Dinner

**PAUPM @ Rugby House**  
 (<http://www.paupm.org>)

UPM Alumni Association new office as of 6 April 2010



## Coming Events



# The 34th UPM Convocation Ceremony (9-13 October 2010)

**Congratulations to all graduates!** UPM welcomes you back to this momentous ceremony. A moment of pride for all graduates and their families. Please be sure to bring home your best graduation photos of the year!



# YPR



## Lecture Series

Look out for the upcoming lecture by our prominent alumni, Dato' Tajuddin Atan, the Group Managing Director of RHB Capital Berhad. The lecture will be held on Friday 22 October 2010, 3 p.m. at Engineering Auditorium, UPM.

# The Distinguished UPM Alumni LECTURE SERIES



**Coming Soon!** A moment to give back to the Faculty. Each Faculty gets to bring their eminent alumni to share their experiences and knowledge with the campus community and alumni. See you there! For further informations, please visit our website [www.alumni.upm.edu.my](http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my)

# UPM alumni update form

School of  
Agriculture  
1931



College of Agriculture, Malaya  
1952 - 1961



College of Agriculture, Malaya  
1962 - 1964



College of Agriculture, Malaya  
1965 - 1971



Universiti Pertanian Malaysia  
1971 - 1997



Universiti Putra Malaysia  
1997 - present

## 1 personal details

Name :

I.C. No. / Passport No \* :

Programme : Diploma  Bachelor  Master  Ph.D

Field of Study :

Faculty :

Year of Graduation :

State/ Country :

## 2 contact details

Permanent Home Address :

Office/ Business Address :

Position :

Telephone nos. : Home :  Mobile :   
Office :  Fax :

E-mail :

## UPM alumni online Community

Kindly visit our website and update your address with us from time to time  
We thank you for your co-operation. This data will be kept in the UPM Alumni database  
for future correspondences.

Please photocopy and help us distribute to your alumni friends. Sent completed form to:

Alumni Centre, Bangunan C13, Lorong Pongamia, 43400 Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Tel : 03-8946 7886 / 8946 6079 / 8946 6080 Fax : 03-8656 6933 Email: [www.alumni.upm.edu.my](http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my)



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