

# SerdangSUN

*A Tradition of Giving, a Culture of Bonding*  
UPM Alumni Magazine

## Growing International Networks



ISSN 1985-806X



9 771985 806000

Volume 04/Issue 08  
July - Dec 2012



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Welcome to the December edition of our alumni premier publication of Serdang Sun. We are confident that the year 2012 has brought success in your career and personal life. As we welcome 2013, we sincerely hope that you will be with us and look forward to a productive and prosperous 2013 ahead. We are genuinely confident that you will support us while we continuously strategize and plan on transforming the 'business as usual' to 'business not as usual'!

On campus, we welcome our distinguished alumni Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan (Alumni 1981) who was recently appointed as the seventh Vice Chancellor of UPM. The alumni of UPM are proud of his achievement, thus marked the significance of alumni in the successful development of our beloved *Alma mater*.

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# T I O N A L I S I N G UPM

We would also like to share the success of other alumni, so, do share the information with us. Herewith, UPM alumni would like to thanks Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin Umar, UPM's sixth VC who had given many insights in making sure that alumni contribute back to their *Alma mater*. We are so indebted of his courage and forward thinking.

As featured throughout this magazine, our focus for this edition is the internationalisation of UPM. Being a university of world repute, UPM stand tall among local university in Malaysia that have international linkages either in student intake and mobility, research and development and higher education as a whole. In 2012, UPM is a recipient of several prestigious international awards such as the AACSB International or Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, a global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees in business and accounting. UPM is the first university in Malaysia to obtain accreditation from ACCSB in business education. This accreditation is awarded to the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEP) and Putra Business School or PBS (formerly known as the Graduate School of Management or GSM).

As a secretariat for MyAlumni Cluster under the PSPTN2 Malaysian Global Outreach, Alumni Centre was given a task to develop a database of Malaysian HEI Alumni all over the world by end of this year. The internationalisation of Malaysian HEI has become a serious agenda and we are happy that our international alumni could be part of it.

On the local front, alumni of UPM should feel proud where 12 UPM scientists were conferred the Fellowship of the Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM) and several of them were our own alumni. Being dubbed as a green campus, UPM won the Malaysian 'Greentech University Award 2012' under the silver category. Those are only few of our proud achievements in 2012. More information can be found in our web site. If you have not been to UPM recently, do make a trip back to your *Alma mater* and pay us a visit. We surely would like to meet and network with you. We at Alumni Centre enjoy speaking and meeting you and hope by doing so will broaden our horizons of network and later inspire the future alumni or current student to excel in their study and future undertakings. We have outlined our alumni popular event throughout 2013 and we appeal for your support to help us achieve greater heights!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Abu Talib  
(Dip. Agric 1982; Bac. Resources Economics, 1987)  
Director of Alumni Centre

thecreative team



# LEVERAGING on Student Alumni Relations Towards Internationalisation

## Alumni As Assets

Higher education institutions need to make concerted effort to cultivate their alumni relationships as they are a reliable source of first-hand information on quality of services from their study experiences and have wide ranging influences on fellow prospective students from both local and foreign countries. For higher education institutions, new students in foreign countries often come from other students' referrals or 'word-of-mouth' advertising. This enabling factor provides better knowledge to prospective international students deciding on the destination of higher education study.



These days, international alumni are seen as essential catalysts in creating positive feelings about institutions among prospective students as they can generate higher student enrolments from their countries. Moreover, alumni are vital in enhancing the academic profile of institutions globally as well as supporting their institution's promotional recruitment and philanthropic initiatives. They may also act as their institution's ambassadors in spreading word about the promising opportunities of institutions voluntarily or officially. In view of this, higher education institutions should leverage on alumni as a strategic tool to promote themselves internationally by strengthening their alumni relations.

Given the importance of internationalisation of higher education institutions, it is timely that Malaysia

moves towards strengthening the relationship with alumni to enhance the image of the higher education institutions by executing promotional activities internationally and retaining talented alumni in higher education institutions or commercial sectors of Malaysia. In this way, both local and international alumni of Malaysian higher education institutions can contribute back to the country helping to promote higher education institutions through their talent and expertise.

## Objectives

This strategy aims to foster internationalisation of Malaysian higher education institutions by leveraging on alumni relations. In order to do so, higher education institutions have to develop good rapport with both current students and alumni by ensuring that student feel they belong and bond with their alma mater towards nurturing their lifelong relationships and loyalty with their institutions. In addition, higher education institutions have view each student as an individual and take a personal approach in meeting their individual needs. Every interaction with an applicant, student and alumni must be managed well for maximum service quality.

Alumni may act as ambassadors voluntarily or officially by assisting in promotional programmes in preferred partner countries. The alumni should be appreciated through their contributions to their higher education institution in Malaysia and they should be aware that they have significant role to play in promoting higher education institutions in Malaysia. The key thrust of this initiative is that if the students feel satisfied with their relationship with their higher education institution will be strengthened and they will contribute more to the country.

The strategy will be implemented with the following objectives:

- Enhance the presence of higher education institutions in the international market.
- Boost the brand equity of Malaysian higher education institutions internationally.
- Foster good relations and understanding between international students and local communities.
- Retain talented alumni.

## Strategic Programme and Plan of Action

- 1) Developing Higher Education Institutions Brand Equity through Alumni Relations.
  - a) Long term outcomes
    - Enhanced brand equity of Malaysian Higher Education Institutions internationally.
    - Lifelong loyalty of alumni with higher education institutions.
    - Comfortable learning and living environment for both student and local communities.
  - b) Short term outcomes
    - Enhanced higher education institutions' relationship with alumni.
    - Retained talented students.
    - Voluntary support from alumni to higher education institutions.
  - c) Strategic initiative
    - MyAlumni - An initiative to strengthen the higher education institutions' relationship with their alumni so that they can contribute back to higher education institutions by promoting Malaysian higher education institutions in international market.



*Excerpt from NHESP 2 Malaysia's Global Reach: A New Dimension (Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, 2011)*

# GROWING



## International Networks



UPM has produced more than 200 international alumni each year. Since its first convocation, the total number of UPM international alumni is 2783. Maintaining connections ensures that the bonds between our alumni and *Alma mater* endure space and time constraint.

As our alumni grows each year and becomes increasingly global with UPM alumni establishing themselves internationally, we are optimistic that alumni will stay connected despite geographical distances. Over the years, our networks have expanded to foster greater connectivity and stronger ties on a global scale to achieved our vision to be a reputed university.



# International MoU

UPM has established links to international bodies all over the world. UPM alumni is proud to be part of these achievements.

## Australia

- 1 University of Wollongong
- 2 University of Newcastle
- 3 University of Queensland
- 4 University of Southern Queensland
- 5 La Trobe University
- 6 The University of Melbourne (UMEL)
- 7 Macquarie University, Sydney
- 8 The University of Western Australia



## Austria

- 9 United Nations Industrial Development Organization



## Brunei

- 10 Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)



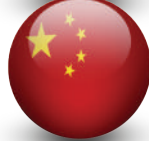
## Canada

- 11 The University of Guelph



## China

- 12 Beijing Forestry University
- 13 Southwest Forestry University
- 14 South China Agricultural University
- 15 Sichuan Zonghan Solar Power Co. Ltd
- 16 Lanzhou University



## Finland

- 17 University of Eastern Finland



## France

- 18 Alfort Veterinary School
- 19 The Centre De Cooperation Internationale En Recherche Agronomique Pour Le Development
- 20 Universite Henri Poincare Nancy
- 21 Presidents D' Universite (CPU)
  - Universite de Bordeaux
  - University de Bourgogne
  - Universite de Bretagne-Sud
  - University de la Rochelle
  - University de Paris-Est
  - University de Toulouse
  - Nancy Univesite
- 22 University of Montpellier 2



## Germany

- 23 University of Applied Sciences Aachen
- 24 Dresden University of Technology
- 25 EBS Univesitaet Fuer Wirtschaft Und Recht  
EBS Business School
- 26 PharmaSol GmbH
- 27 Leibniz Institute For Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim



## Indonesia

- 28 Universitas Airlangga
- 29 Institut Teknologi Bandung
- 30 Indonesia Institute of Science (LIPI)
- 31 Universitas Nasional (UNAS)
- 32 Universitas Indonesia (UI)
- 33 Yogyakarta State University
- 34 University of Diponegoro (UNDIP)



## Iraq

- 35 University of Baghdad
- 36 University of Kufa



## Italy

- 37 Politecnico Di Milano
- 38 University of Milano-Bicocca



## Japan

- 39 Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- 40 University of Tsukuba
- 41 Mie University
- 42 Kochi University
- 43 Aqua Corporation, Japan
- 44 Hiroshima University
- 45 Graduate School of Horticulture and Faculty of Horticulture, Chiba University.
- 46 Kobe College
- 47 Shinshu University
- 48 Alnair Laboratories Corporation
- 49 Research Center of Supercritical Fluid Technology
- 50 Kogoshima University
- 51 Acid Deposition and Oxidant Research Center, Japan
- 52 Hoshi University
- 53 Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute
- 54 Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST)
- 55 Ajinamoto Co., Inc
- 56 Kyushu Institute of Technology
- 57 Ritsumeikan University
- 58 Mitsubishi Corporation
- 59 Tokyo University of Agriculture
- 60 The Forestry and Forest Products Research
- 61 The National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan (NIES)
- 62 Soka University



## Kazakhstan

- 63 M. Auezov South Kazakhstan State University



## Korea

- 64 Gangneung-Wonju National University
- 65 Chonnam National University
- 66 Dongguk University
- 67 University of Incheon
- 68 CES Company Limited
- 69 Soonchunhyang University
- 70 Gyeongju University
- 71 Kookmin University
- 72 Chungnam National University
- 73 Ajou University





**Malta**

74 The International Institute on Ageing, United Nation



**Mauritius**

75 Alif Society



**Netherlands**

76 Utrecht University  
77 Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention



**New Zealand**

78 The University of Auckland



**Nigeria**

79 Umaru Musa Yar'adua University



**Oman**

80 University of Nizwa



**Pakistan**

81 Comsats Institute of Information Technology  
82 University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences  
83 H.E.J Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi



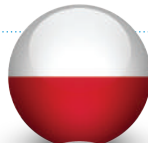
**Philippines**

84 The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SGARCA)  
85 Technological Institute of the Philippines  
86 International Rice Research Institute, Philippines



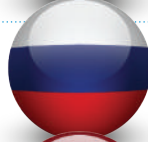
**Poland**

87 Lublin University of Technology



**Russian**

88 Moscow State Forest University



**Spain**

89 Universidade De Vigo  
90 University of Lleida



**Sri Lanka**

91 The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific



**Sweden**

92 Uppsala University



**Taiwan**

93 National Ringtung University of Science and Technology  
94 National Central University  
95 National Yunlin University of Science and Technology



**Thailand**

96 Khon Kaen University  
97 Mahasarakham University  
98 Buriram Rajabhat University  
99 Walailak University  
100 Naresuan University  
101 Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research



**Turkey**

102 Zirve University  
103 Istanbul Technical University  
104 Ataturk University  
105 Yildiz Technical University  
106 Fatih University



**United Kingdom**

107 University of Essex  
108 Institute for Animal Health  
109 University of Edinburgh  
110 Brunel University  
111 University of Glasgow, Scotland  
112 Sheffield Hallam University  
113 Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland  
114 University of Leeds  
115 The University of Sheffield  
116 The University of Stirling  
117 University of Reading  
118 Glyndwr University



**United States of America**

119 Millennium Institute  
120 University of Maryland College Park  
121 North Dakota State University  
122 Savannah State University  
123 Global Lightning Network  
124 Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
125 SRI International  
126 Iowa State University of Science & Technology



**Republic of Uzbekistan**

127 Institute of Mathematics and Information Technologies, Academy of Sciences



**Multiple Institutions (Countries)**

128 Groupe Des Ecoles Des Telecommunications France, Singapore and Korea  
129 Erasmus Mundus Cooperation Agreement  
- Czech Republic - Austria - Germany  
- Poland - Netherlands - Sweden  
- China - Thailand - Indonesia  
- Laos - Vietnam  
130 Framework Partnership Agreement for the Project Let's Move Together (MOVER)  
131 Asian Fisheries Society (HQ-UPM, Malaysia)

# SELE

## STRIVING FOR GLOBAL EXCELLENCE

Syahrul Hazizi Asmat (Assistant Registrar, UMS Vice Chancellor's Office)



From his humble beginning as a *kampung* boy, he rose up to be one of the prominent leaders in the Higher Learning Institutions fraternity. Born in Kg. Gudon, Menggatal, Sabah, YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah is the eldest son from the five children of Abdullah Mohammed and Normah Mat Wahid. He received his early education in St. Catherine Primary School, Inanam, Sabah (1966-1967) and Government English Primary School, Tanjung Aru, Sabah (1968-1973). He received his secondary education at Teacher's Training College in Sabah (1974-1978) before pursuing his tertiary education in B.Sc of Environmental Science at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) under the Sabah state scholarship (1986). He then pursued his Masters in the Faculty of Science & Natural Resources, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (1994), and PhD in the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (2001).

YBhg. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah is very active in research and has headed numerous research grants sponsored by both local and international organizations.



“25th June 2012 left a strong impact on all staff and students where he reminded all to strive for excellence, move towards “one direction one goal”,

Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Harun started working with the public service in the Town & Regional Planning Department, Sabah (1980) before continuing his tertiary education (1981). He then worked as an Environmental Research Officer in the Tourism and Environmental Department, Sabah (1987-1993). While in service, YBhg. Datuk pursues his studies in Applied Ecology and obtains scholarship from Institute of Hydraulic & Environmental Engineering, Delft, Netherlands. He started his career as a tutor (1994) and opted to be a lecturer (1995) in the Environmental Resource Science Faculty, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Campus in Sabah. He then moved to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) where he received his Associate Professorship (2003) and became a full fledged Professor (2007). His specialization is in water quality analysis, geohydrochemistry and subsurface seawater intrusion study.

Prior to his appointment as the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of UMS by the Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, YBhg. Datuk was appointed as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) on 1st August 2011 before being appointed as the Vice Chancellor on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

His prior appointments include Deputy Dean (Academics & Student Affairs) at the School of Science & Technology (1 June 2002 - 31 May 2006) and then as a Dean of the same school (16 June 2008 - 31 July 2011). He is also the first to manage the Water Research Unit (WRU) at the School of Science & Technology for two years (15th November 2011). He has also been one of UMS Senate members (3 June 2008). Besides his academic appointments, he is also the UMS permanent representative in the Sabah State Government Environmental Protection Council, appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah since 2011.

Besides publishing books including articles and high impact journals of international standards, YBhg. Datuk is very active in research and has headed numerous research grants sponsored by both local and international organizations. Among some of the research spearheaded by him is the grant from Kurita Water and Environment Foundation Research Grant (KWEF) Japan; United Nations University (UNU) - International Environment Research Centre (IERC) Korea Joint Programme on Science & Technology for Sustainability 2008-2009; Science fund from the Ministry of Science,



Technology and Innovation Malaysia; and Fundamental Research Grants from the Higher Education Ministry Malaysia. He also pioneered a group of researchers on water resources from the environmental perspective for small islands in Malaysia which is called Small Islands Research Group (SIRG).

Humble yet unassuming, YBhg. Datuk has come a long way. His inaugural message held soon after his appointment, on 25th June 2012 left a strong impact on all staff and students where he reminded all to strive for excellence, move towards “one direction one goal”, and inculcate volunteerism as well as ensuring UMS becomes a renowned university all over the world.

# BELIEVE IN YOUR TALENTS...

Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan (BSc. Consumer Science, 2006)  
Dr. Arbaayah Ali Termizi (FBMK, UPM)

Mohd Husainy Ab Mu'ed (Bac. Acc, 2002), is a passionate and dedicated man who is determined to build a successful career in business. He started as a Marketing and Accounts Executive with a financial consultant company in 2002 and later joined a tax agent firm for a year. Always a busy man, he worked part time as a tuition teacher and *Takaful* consultant to earn extra money. It was in 2004 that Husainy decided to resign from his salaried job to achieve his dream i.e. setting up his first consultancy company, Mekar Hasil Management.



After being conferred as a Chartered Accountant, he registered another accounting firm, MHM Associates (MHMA) with an accounting body, Malaysian Institute of Account (MIA) in September 2008. MHMA offers one stop service centre to prospective small medium industries with the primary objective in providing financial intelligence that drives business growth and success. It also includes works on company registration, accounting, taxation, secretarial, auditing and licensing. Its

vision is to provide the highest standard of professional competence and strive to excel in the advisory services business. In October 2010, MHMA set up its first branch located at the Shah Alam, Selangor in order to penetrate potential market there.

Husainy, a father of two adorable children, is a very humble man. Always a positive person, he never believe in giving up and will keep on trying even when there seems to be no hope at all.

Serdang Sun is honoured that to meet such an optimistic person when Husainy consented to be interviewed at his office.

**SERDANG SUN:** Tell us more about your responsibility, when you set up your own business, mission and vision of your organization?

It was back in June 2004 when I decided to start my own business with a small capital. I rented a small space in a friend's office and slowly expanded my

business from there. With my previous experience working in a finance company and a tax agency, I made my company's existence known in this industry. Within 3 months, I managed to gain back my capital and gradually the income kept on rising every month. At that moment, I am confident with the path I had chosen and became more serious in expanding the business.

My company's motto is "Your Business Partner of Growth" and thus I felt that it is my responsibility to help small and medium entrepreneurs to comply with the company law and tax regulations in term of providing advice, awareness and services

related to it. In addition, I must keep on updating my knowledge and develop my soft skills from time to time.

My mission is to set up 4 branches with a minimum of 15 permanent staff by 2015. My vision is to become a recognized professional firm which provides the highest standard of competence and strive to excel in the advisory services business .

**SERDANG SUN: What do you love about your job now, and your philosophy in managing your own company?**

I am happy when clients are satisfied with our services especially when their loan application is successful which then entitled them to be awarded tender and eventually they were able to avoid any penalty from statutory body.

My philosophy is always do the best, aim for the best and let God do the rest.

**SERDANG SUN: Do you have a favourite quote or word of wisdom ?**

Always give more than expected. The more you give, the more you get and the more you learn, the more you will earn.

**SERDANG SUN: Are you willing to contribute/give back to your *Alma mater* especially in sharing thought/ knowledge/experience with students? In what way do you feel most appropriate?**

Yes definitely. I welcome students from my *Alma mater* to do their practical training at my firm and I am willing to be involved in a mentor mentee program (if required) or contribute in anyways that I can.

**SERDANG SUN: What is your future plan?**

I'm planning to open a new branch in Negeri Sembilan soon (insha Allah) this year. I'm also planning to get an audit license in 2015. In addition I like to learn Mandarin and Arabic languages.

**SERDANG SUN: Do you think UPM will achieve its vision to become a university of international**

**repute especially in producing high marketability graduates?**

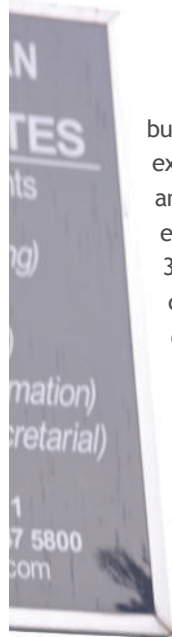
Yes, UPM's graduates have excellent quality not only in academic but also have strong and good personality.

**SERDANG SUN: Which place/venue/ people you are really missing in UPM?**

I missed my college, Sixth College where I spent most of my 3 ½ undergraduate years. It was at this point when I met many good friends, developed my leadership and time management skills throughout my involvement in college bureaus, club and sports event.

**SERDANG SUN: What advice would you give to graduates who are seeking employment?**

Find places that you can apply your theoretical knowledge either with big or small companies as much as you can. If you don't get responses from big companies, don't get upset. Try smaller companies which are related to your course. Get practical skill, and experience first before jumping to another company.



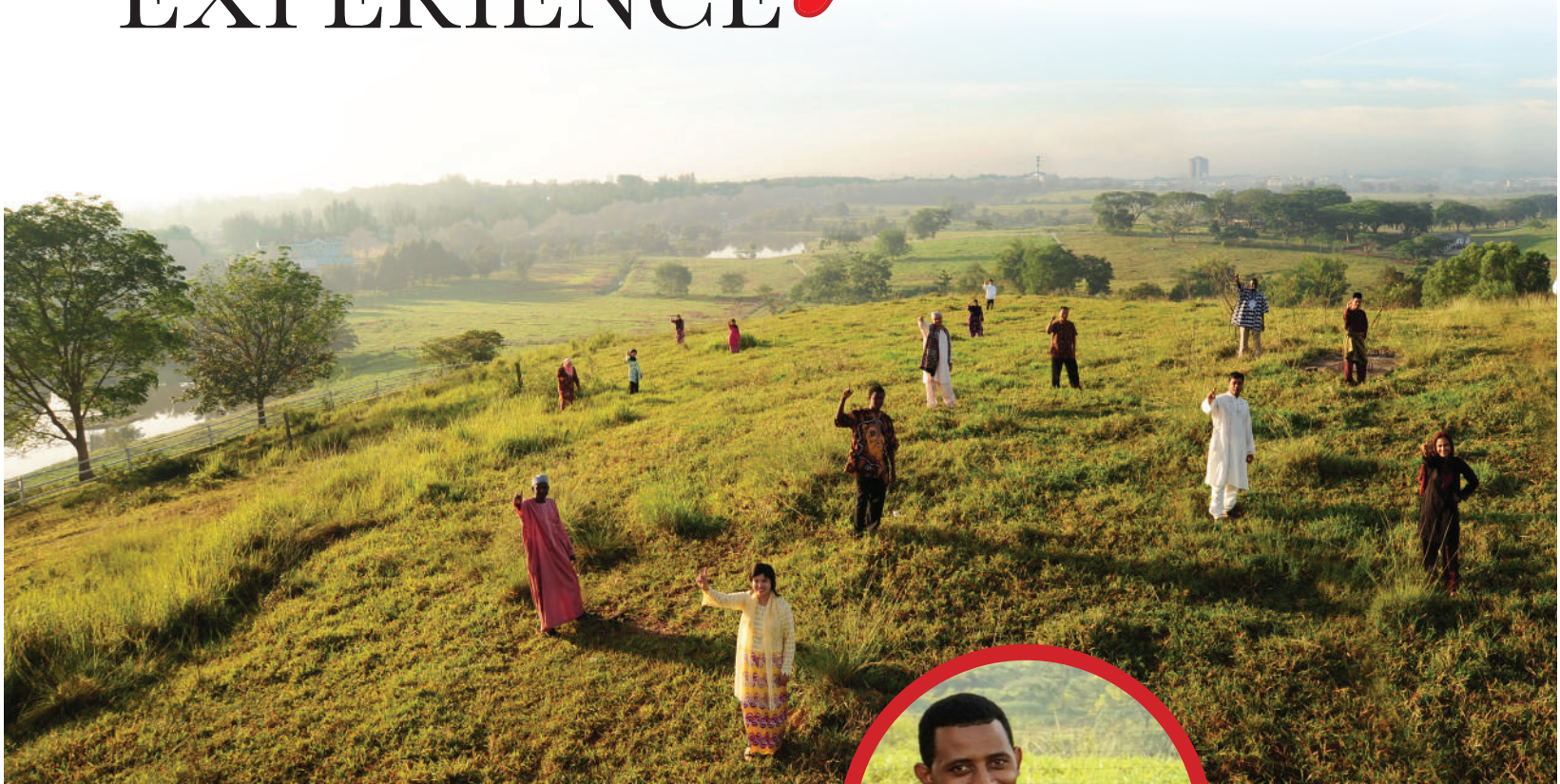
*I build up the company motto*

**"Your Business Partner of Growth"** and made my responsibility to help small and medium entrepreneurs to comply with the company law and tax regulations in term of providing advice...



# MY Malaysian EXPERIENCE

Erkihun Aklilu (MSc Molecular Biology, 2010)



Being an alumni of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) I feel fortunate to get the opportunity to work as an academician in a country I loved and consider as my second home. As a graduate student in UPM, I had the opportunity to get exposed to the multicultural fraternity organised by the university's International Office (IO) and Alumni Centre. Those exposures helped me to not only to know and experience Malaysian culture, but also exposed me to ornate cultures from other countries.



Soon after my arrival in Malaysia in July 2007, I found many things including the weather, the food and locally spoken languages unfamiliar to me and the living style quite different from that of my country, Ethiopia. It took me several months to get acclimatized especially to the weather and food. I found Malaysia as

a beautiful country with humble and loving people, just like the Ethiopian people. Though I faced language and cultural barriers during my first few months in Malaysia, gradually I found many great Malaysian friends who not only made my life in Malaysia enjoyable,

good things that might be taken for granted.

Now it is more than half a decade since I set foot in Malaysia. My experience as a lecturer at Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) has also been so exciting. I work

and social composition and culture are somewhat different from what I experienced while in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. However, the people here are also very amicable, loving and cultured. For me being a UPM alumni has added points in making it easier for

Being in the east coast of Malaysia, Kelantan has its own beauties which make it unique from other parts of Malaysia. The Malay language dialect, the food and social composition and culture are somewhat different from what I experienced while in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. However, the people here are also very amicable, loving and cultured.



but also made me feel at home and helped me to assimilate well. Despite the demanding nature of graduate studies, I also managed to visit wonderful places in Malaysia. The more I travelled around the country, the more I loved being here. As someone from a historically rich, naturally enriched, multicultural and multilingual country, I found Malaysia as a peaceful country blessed by natural wonders and multicultural beauty too. These attributes made me to enjoy my experiences here and appreciate the

in the field I am very passionate about, teaching and research. Universiti Malaysia Kelantan has been advancing since its inception in 2007. It has been a great opportunity for me to be here in UMK as it enabled me to garner professional and personal experiences while passionately serving the university and discharging my responsibilities as academic staff. Being in the east coast of Malaysia, Kelantan has its own beauties which make it unique from other parts of Malaysia. The Malay language dialect, the food

me to understand Malaysian culture and assimilate well.

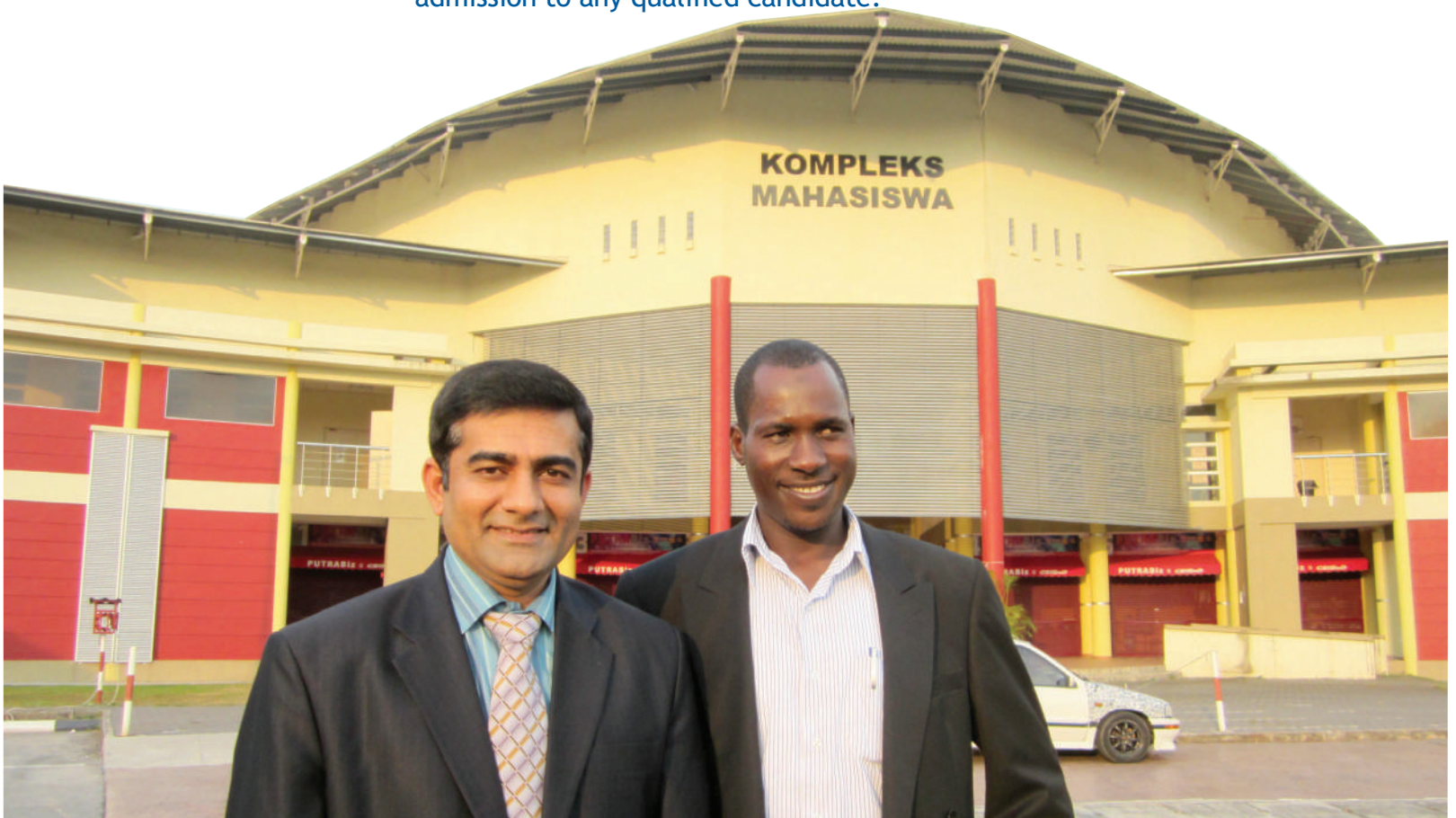
In this regard, I would like to appreciate the efforts by International Office and Alumni Centre at UPM for their unreserved support in helping international students by creating opportunities to experience the different cultures from various countries, know more about Malaysia and its culture and above all for contributing to the memorable experiences I had at UPM.

# NEVER A DULL MOMENT



Maina M. Mohd. (PhD Irrigation & Drainage Engineering),  
Semester 2, 2012/2013; President of UPMISA, 2012-2013)

I would like to congratulate and thank Serdang Sun for giving me the opportunity to express myself here. My name is Maina M. Mohd. and I hail from Northern Nigeria which is predominantly a Muslims country. My desire to study outside my country started immediately when I completed my MSc. degree in Nigeria. I got several opportunities to study for my PhD in my country but I was reluctant to embark on such offers since I already made up my mind to explore other places overseas. UPM must be commended for its swift response to applications and immediate offer of admission to any qualified candidate.





In 2010, I submitted three applications for admission and I got the offers from all three; two in UK (Newcastle and Cranfield Universities) and one in Malaysia (UPM). Even though I submitted late yet I was given an admission. I chose Malaysia because it is a fast growing developing country therefore, I felt they will pay more attention to intensive research and innovations in all aspect of knowledge and more importantly, UPM is the best agricultural University in Malaysia and off course 'a world leader in new tropical agriculture' which suited my research in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering. I see hospitality from the people I met when I arrived in Malaysia and UPM. It was a wonderful experience; the environment is green and beautiful, it's a good impression, and the memory lasted a lifetime.

My first personal contact and interaction with a Malaysian was my supervisor Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Amin Mohd Soom of Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He was an extraordinary man, very friendly and always smiling. The first few minutes I had with him made me relaxed as he engaged me in a conversation and as I was leaving his office he called my name and said "now Iqra, Iqra..." (Which means 'read' in Arabic).

My next wonderful experience in UPM was the day of our oath taking. The most memorable, fascinating, inspirational, and motivational speech that was the Vice Chancellor's astounding call to all of us to take our research as an act of Ibadah (worship and submission to God) which gives me the spiritual motivation and guidance to struggle for knowledge.

One of my aspirations in life is to achieve higher standard in serving humanity and that's why I like to challenge myself and strive hard to work outside my comfort zone. This leads to my present post as the President of UPM International Student Association (UPMISA). It is a responsibility that demands striking a balance between my research and the



office responsibilities besides making me stronger, resilience, and dedicated to meet all necessary demands and even create time for fun. This experience gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of friends both local and international, real friends that last as we have shared ideas and experiences. I was also fortunate to make contact with student leaders in different public schools in Malaysia which also expand the boundary of friendships.

**UPM is the best agricultural University in Malaysia and off course**

**'a world leader in new tropical agriculture'**

**which suited my research in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering.**

One of my visions as the President of UPMISA was to raise the standard of the association by enhancing cohesion amongst the students and encourage an idea of 'friendship in diversity' with a simple slogan of "get involved!" We organize activities that foster students communication skills, improve ethics and moral values, encourages team spirit, and soft skills. We have achieved success so far and are still trying to align our aspiration to UPM's vision. We look forward to a time when UPM alumni are the most sought after graduates worldwide. Following our visionary framework in UPMISA we hope that the university management will give us maximum support to keep our morale high in this direction.

As the number of international presence in UPM is increasing day by day, I would like to make a gentle call for the Alumni Office to organize more programmes for the international students on campus so as to bring greater awareness about its activities and its mode of operations. It is imperative to devise a mode to keep track of international alumni in order to strengthen relationship and ensure continuous support for UPM and Malaysia in general.

To close this article with my favourite quote, "An investment in knowledge pays the best prize" -Benjamin Franklin-



# SANTAI ALUMNI

Mohd Aliff Jaafar (Alumni Centre)

In conjunction with the UPM Alumni Day 21 May, UPM Alumni Centre took the opportunity to organise Santai Alumni UPM on 9 May 2012 targeting to those alumni who work at UPM. A total of 100 alumni attended this program. It started with a brief message by Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj Ramlan (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Alumni), followed by discussion and dialogue session by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abd Rasid Jamian (Deputy Director, Alumni Centre).

The evening was filled with fun and excitements, most of alumni attended took opportunity to express their opinions on how Alumni Centre could play its role actively in its upcoming activities.

# MAJLIS KESYUKURAN

Mohd Naim Mohd Ishak (BSc. Human Development, 2001; MSc. IT, 2005)

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012, a thanksgiving ceremony was held successfully at the UPM Mosque in conjunction with the UPM Alumni Day 21 May. It was a joint effort between the UPM Alumni Centre, UPM Alumni Association and UPM Islamic Centre. About 350 participants comprised of UPM administrators, staff, alumni, students and the Serdang parishioners attended the occasion.



The event was to thank and seek blessings from Allah The Almighty for the campus and Serdang communities and also all UPM Alumni wherever they are. It was also meant to foster a closer relationship between the campus community and UPM Alumni and to reflect upon the historical link from past to the present development in UPM.

Additionally, orphans from the Bakti Nur Syaheera and Al-Kautsar Orphanage, Bangi, new Muslim converts and needy UPM students were invited and given donations in preparation for the coming Hari Raya.



# SERDANG HERITAGE

"Membudayakan Berilmu Berbakti"

Sarah Rahim (B. Comm, 2011)



Universiti Putra Malaysia commemorated UPM Alumni Day 21 May with a forum that highlighted the Motto of UPM "With Knowledge We Serve". The historical date was celebrated by UPM and all UPM Alumni to honor the date of the establishment of UPM from a School of Agriculture in 1931, and today it has been transformed to a university of international repute.



“With Knowledge We Serve” (2) Acculturation “With Knowledge We Serve” among UPM Alumni and campus community; and (3) Aspiration of UPM Alumni.



In 2012, Alumni Centre UPM hosted the forum on the Serdang Heritage “Membudayakan Berilmu Berbakti” or “With knowledge We Serve as Part of our Culture”. The panelists were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Fadzil Che Din (Alumni 1989), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Ridhuan Tee Abdullah (Alumni 2008) and Mrs. Nor Azzura Azizul Azman (Alumni 2011). The forum highlighted three core areas (1) Concept of motto “With Knowledge We Serve” (2) Acculturation “With Knowledge We Serve” among UPM Alumni and campus community; and (3) Aspiration of UPM Alumni.



The discussion focussed on role played by UPM Alumni in contributing to the religion, race, nation and UPM development as a whole. The forum was a great platform to share experience and expertise aimed in fostering and giving aspirations to future graduates to contribute to the *Alma mater*. The audiences acknowledged the efforts to create a sense of belonging and pride to university among themselves and also to create an awareness about the tradition of giving and the culture of bonding.



More than 300 UPM Alumni and campus community made it to Main Hall, PKKSSAAS for the half-day forum.

# ALUMNI FRIENDLY SPORTS

This never ending fun programmes livened up the atmosphere and everyone felt rejoiced. All alumni involved played and chatted happily, just like a gathering of old buddies.



12 MAY 2012 •  
BOWLING GAMES AT  
THE MINES BOWL



Nor Khamisah Muhammad (B. Comm, 2006)

## ALUMNI CHARITY GOLF

The Alumni Charity Golf was one of the customary events in the UPM Alumni Day 21<sup>st</sup> May celebration and it received overwhelming supports from the UPM Alumni, the campus community and outsiders. This event was also targeted to increase the coffers of the Alumni Caring Fund of the UPM Alumni Association. The commitment and participations of alumni were in line with the slogan, “A Tradition of Giving, a Culture of Bonding” with contributions in the forms of finance, supports, and manpower which will be used to assist the unfortunate members of the alumni.

A million thanks to Dato’ Samsuri Rahmat (YLI Holdings) as the major contributor in making this competitive event a success. Transview Golf Sdn Bhd also donated the “Hole in One” prize



of gold-related products. Encik Suhaimi Hassan (Xybase Sdn Bhd) dan CIMB Banks sponsored hampers. The overall winner of the UPM Alumni Day Charity Golf competition was Captain Zolkepli Othman. The winner of the Senior 60 and above category was Mr. Ar Mohd Razali Mahyuddin and the winner for the Regular 59 below category was Mr. Kamal Karim. Gifts of appreciation were also presented to the secretariat of the event from the UPM Alumni Association namely, Captain Zolkepli Othman, Dr. Jamal Talib, Mr. Ya’sak Masod, Haji Fuad Yatim, Mr. Kamal Karim, Mr. Fariz Azdmi dan Mr. Helmi Azro Abu Hassan.

Amongst the guests of honour were Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan (Deputy VC Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Tai Szew Yew (Former Deputy VC of Industry and Community Relations), Dato’ Dr. Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajudin, Dato’ Zulkifli Salleh, Dato’ Ruslan Hassan, Dato’ Abdul Rahman Ali, Dato’ Tunku Mahmud, Dato’ Samsuri Rahmat (YLI Holdings) and Prof. Dr. Hamdani Sadi.

Tribute to those present and those taking part in the event.



alumni friendly sports



20 MAY 2012 • ALUMNI CHARITY GOLF AT THE UPM GOLF CLUB



Fatheen Nabila Ghazali (UPM Alumni Association)  
 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Rasid Jamian (PBMP, 1997)

**KEJOHANAN RAGBI PERSAHABATAN**



26 MAY 2012 • FRIENDLY RUGBY GAME BETWEEN SERDANG ANGELS VS SERDANG X-ANGELS

Persatuan Alumni Universiti Putra Malaysia (PAUPM) dengan kerjasama Pusat Kecemerlangan Sukan dan Pusat Alumni UPM sekali lagi telah menganjurkan Kejohanan Ragbi Persahabatan sempena Hari Alumni UPM 21 Mei seperti tahun-tahun sebelumnya. Kejohanan ini telah diadakan 26 Mei 2012 di Padang Ragbi UPM yang melibatkan pasukan ragbi Serdang Angels menentang Serdang X-Angels.

Pasukan X-Angel diketuai oleh Kapten Yusri Ahmad manakala Angel diketuai oleh Kapten Izzat Nazmi Anuar. Perlawanan yang agak sengit antara kedua-dua pasukan menyaksikan beberapa

aksi hangat. Pasukan Angel berjaya menewaskan Ex-Angels dengan mata (26-19). Walaupun hanya perlawanan persahabatan namun semangat yang ditunjukkan oleh Ex-Angels patut dihargai dan dipuji kerana ada antara mereka yang datang dari jauh seperti Perak, Johor dan sebagainya sebagai bukti kecintaan mereka kepada *Alma mater* ini.

Akhir kejohanan tersebut, Dr. Saidon Amri selaku Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pelaksana, Pusat Kecemerlangan Sukan Ragbi, Pusat Sukan UPM diberi penghormatan menyampaikan hadiah kepada pemenang sambil diiringi oleh Tuan Haji Anas Ahmad Nasarudin, Presiden Persatuan Alumni UPM sesi 2011-2013 dan diikuti dengan penyerahan 6 unit hamper cabutan bertuah bagi memeriahkan lagi kejohanan ragbi pada petang tersebut.

Antara yang hadir memberi sokongan ialah Timbalan Pengarah Pusat Alumni, Prof. Madya Dr. Abdul Rasid Jamian dan Haji Mohamed Fauzi Omar, AJK Persatuan Alumni UPM (PAUPM). Kejohanan berakhir sekitar jam 7.00 petang yang diakhiri dengan sesi fotografi dan jamuan ringan di Rumah Kelab Ragbi, UPM.





Alaina Shofni Kasim (Alumni Centre)

## UPM ALUMNI SEMENGGOK GRAND REUNION

UPM Alumni Semenggok Grand Reunion has been planned as part of the program in the UPM Alumni Day 21 May 2012. This reunion was held on 7 July 2012 at the Golf Club, UPM was intended to bring back as many alumni especially from UPM Semenggok Campus for our upcoming events.

Pusat Alumni Universiti Putra Malaysia dengan kerjasama Persatuan Alumni UPM telah mengadakan program "Grand Reunion UPM Alumni Semenggok" bertujuan mengeratkan silaturrahim dalam kalangan alumni UPM daripada kampus Semenggok, Sarawak. Selain itu, program yang julung kali diadakan ini dapat menemukan mereka semua setelah sekian lama terpisah selepas bergraduat.

Program ini juga menjadi landasan untuk para alumni mengimbuai kembali zaman pembelajaran dan kisah suka duka mereka semasa bergelar pelajar suatu ketika dahulu. Hasil usaha sekretariat Pusat Alumni dalam mengesan dan menjejaki alumni Chapter Semenggok ini ternyata berhasil apabila seramai 50 alumni menghadiri program ini.

Pengarah Pusat Alumni, Prof. Madya Dr. Mansor Abu Talib dalam ucapan pelancaran Chapter Semenggok berharap agar "suatu hari nanti kita dapat mengumpul dan mencari semua alumni dari Semenggok yang telah lama hilang". Pada majlis yang cukup istimewa ini, Tuan Haji Abdul Ghaffar Othman (Bs. Pertanian, 1984) telah dilantik sebagai Ketua Alumni UPM Chapter Semenggok.

Kebanyakan alumni yang hadir sangat berpuas hati dan ada antara mereka dari Sabah dan Sarawak turut hadir semata-mata untuk berjumpa dengan kawan-kawan yang telah lama terpisah. Mereka berharap agar Pusat Alumni dapat melaksanakan aktiviti seperti ini lagi pada masa hadapan dan dapat menarik minat lebih banyak lagi alumni untuk kembali ke *Alma mater* ini.



# PICTORIAL 2012

HIGHLIGHTS OF ALUMNI ACTIVITIES (JULY - DEC)

7 AUG 2012 •  
IFTAR RAMADHAN



14 SEPT 2012 •  
PAUPM EID OPEN HOUSE



15 SEPT 2012 •  
REUNION AGRIMA 83/86



13-19 OCT 2012 • DISTRIBUTION OF  
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**CENDERAHATI ALUMNI**  
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**PUSAT ALUMNI**



# SIREH PULANG KE GAGANG



# ALUMNI 1974', 75' & 76' (15-16 OCTOBER 2012)



REGISTRATION & PRIZE PRESENTATION



ALUMNI TAHLIL RECITAL



# SIREH PULANG KE GAGANG



LAUNCHING OF ALUMNI 74', 75' & 76' DIRECTORY



YPR LECTURE SERIES "IMBAUAN MENTARI SERDANG"



# ALUMNI 1974', 75' & 76' (15-16 OCTOBER 2012)



"MAJLIS APRESIASI MENTARI SERDANG"



"MENTARI SERDANG" DINNER



# Homecoming VII Dinner Sirih Pulang Ke Gagang





# “Tautan Kasih Memateri Berilmu Berbakti” | 10 November 2012



25 Nov 2012 • ALUMNI FEP HI-TEA CEREMONY  
"SELEMBAR KENANGAN SETULUS INGATAN"



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Distinguished UPM Alumni Lecture Series (DALs): Living the Serdang Story

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 information, please visit our website for details on DALs.

[www.alumni.upm.edu.my](http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my)

## Alumni Sports Carnival

Look out for the upcoming program with UPM Alumni!

For further information, please visit our website for details on this event.

[www.alumni.upm.edu.my](http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my)

## UPM Alumni Day 21 May

UPM Alumni Day 21 May is officially a special date to be remembered by everyone. It is the official founding date of the School of Agriculture in Serdang 1931. A special program will be held to commemorate the date at the UPM Hall PKKSSAAS. Watch out for more on this event or contact Alumni Centre at 03-8946 6079/6080/7886 or visit our website for details.

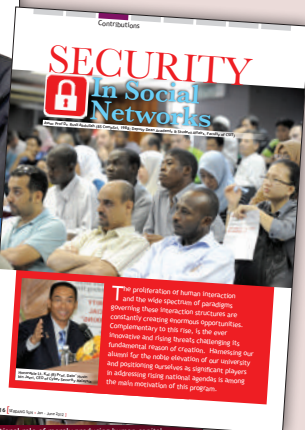
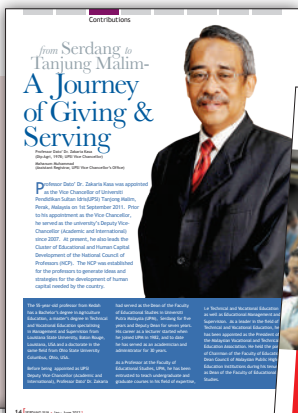
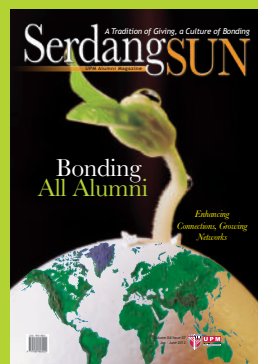
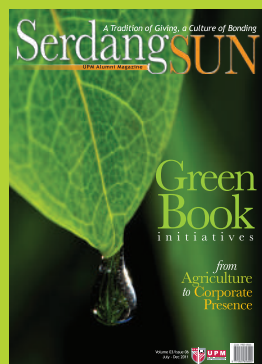
# Giving Back to UPM

We welcome our alumni to promote their business in UPM Alumni Magazine 'Serdang Sun'. Advertising in this magazine is a great way to let UPM alumni and friends know about your product, service, event or organization.

For your information, all payment made will be channelled to the Tabung Dana Wakaf Ilmu UPM.

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## Contribute to Alma mater

Serdang Sun welcomes contributions in the forms of article, feature stories, alumni news to ensure the content of the magazine is relevant and appealing to the readers. Photos must be in high resolution and submitted as jpeg file. All published articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, UPM alumni or the university, nor does the Editor take responsibility for errors on fact that may be expressed by the writers and we also have right to edit submissions of style and length.

Send your interesting story, thought and views to [alumni@alumni.upm.edu.my](mailto:alumni@alumni.upm.edu.my).

**UPM ALUMNI WEEKEND 2011**

30 April 2011 marks a very special date where the Alumni Union orchestrated the 'Alumni Weekend'.

The idea is to have a weekend that can be remembered by alumni as a highlight annual event. For the inaugural year, which was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, centred with the theme of the association.

What drove the vibrant and larger number of 'old boys' to their alma mater would be a combination of activities that nurture them. Some would be drawn by sporting activities such as golf, rugby and others common intellectual interests provided by friends and sponsors, and others may simply want to see their best days to have 'fun and laughter' and reminisce on a dinner accompanied as a theme for the reunion weekend. The dinner was sponsored by the families of the 'Young 50's and 60's'.

**UPM has gone way beyond its traditional role of merely producing human capital for the agricultural industry...**

**ETP Forum in Conjunction with UPM's Annual General Meeting (9.30-12.00 p.m.)**

The topic 'Profiting from Malaysia's Economic Transformation Programme' has been discussed for the better to avoid a problem to understand and then strategies for the UPM. The central theme of the conference was 'transforming the UPM into a more dynamic and competitive organization that can meet the challenges of the 21st century. The UPM has gone way beyond its traditional role of merely producing human capital for the agricultural industry. Today many alumni have become leaders and producers of knowledge services in other educational, industrial, ICT, engineering, business, healthcare, and even medical sectors. Some who used to be just agricultural engineers have been the engineering faculty and producing mechanical engineers. The UPM alumni fraternity, recognizing the challenge to avoid job and business opportunities are currently excited about the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), the new approach the Government is taking the nation. The fraternity will not want to be left out. Organizing such forum certainly was viewed as the right step.

Addressed by Prof. Dr. Tai Siew Yee, Deputy VC (Industry & Community) identified the potential success of a balance mix of national industry, corporate and business needs, the central theme of the conference was 'transforming the UPM into a more dynamic and competitive organization that can meet the challenges of the 21st century. The UPM has gone way beyond its traditional role of merely producing human capital for the agricultural industry. Today many alumni have become leaders and producers of knowledge services in other educational, industrial, ICT, engineering, business, healthcare, and even medical sectors. Some who used to be just agricultural engineers have been the engineering faculty and producing mechanical engineers. The UPM alumni fraternity, recognizing the challenge to avoid job and business opportunities are currently excited about the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), the new approach the Government is taking the nation. The fraternity will not want to be left out. Organizing such forum certainly was viewed as the right step.

The VC Dr. Mohd. Izhar's address as an icon of the agricultural fraternity provided insight as corporate as well as UPM. In his perspective of the relevance of ETP and growth of the graduation sector is a realistic perspective to the agricultural industry.

Dear Alumni, most popularly described as male industry members who had been involved from the days in a number of other industries - banking, energy, education, agriculture and more - were accompanied by more opportunities to view from an industry perspective. More than 100 Dairy Project

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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. / Pasport 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)

### UPM Alumni Pro-Filing System



We are honored to invite all UPM alumni to register and update your personal profile in the UPM Alumni portal "UPM Alumni Pro-Filing System" through our website <http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my>.

[www.alumni.upm.edu.my](http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my)



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