

Induction Ceremony of Pertubuhan Golden Key National Honour Malaysia UPM Chapter

- Edward Pang Secretary of PGKNHM

The Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Chapter of Pertubuhan Golden Key National Honour Malaysia (PGKNHM) held its first installation ceremony on 19 August 1998 in the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Cultural & Art Centre. More than 1100 people filled up the hall throughout the ceremony.

Academically superior second-, third-, and fourth-year students in all fields of study at UPM were initiated into the society. Each new member was recognised at the ceremony with certificate of membership. Friends and families of initiates were also in attendance. Activities of the university chapter of PGKNHM were announced, and scholarship was awarded to the outstanding initiates. "...Universiti Putra Malaysia, with 735 charter members, we are proud to join the Pertubuhan Golden Key National Honour Malaysia as the most inductees chapter in Malaysia." Opened by the chapter representative, Edward Pang.

The ceremony was then followed by a speech from Mr. Ramli Abbas, Vice President and Country Manager of Motorola Malaysia. "...As Golden Key members, you are the best of the best....". Motorola is one of the corporate bodies that support Golden Key among other 550 companies around the world.

Mark Herndon, the International Development Director of Golden Key, gave his speech and then presented the charter and a cheque amounted RM 10,960 to Prof. Dr. Rahim Md. Sail as contribution of the society to the university.

Recognition of Executive members was done during the ceremony where all of them received certificates and pins. The officers are Edward Pang from Faculty of Forestry, Nor Aini from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Dahrani and Rozida from Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Lim Chai Seng and Tay Gek Lee from Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies, Winnie Wong from Faculty of Economic and Management, and Zul Daud from Faculty of Modern Languages. Selection of officers was based on their excellency in academic as well as their dedication to co-curriculum activities.

The event also recognised two advisors for UPM chapter, they are Prof. Dr. Rahim Md. Sail, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Mr. Yahaya Salim, Deputy Registrar, both of them are from the Student Affairs Division.

Selected for honorary membership in the society and recognised at the ceremony were Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim, Vice Chancellor of UPM, Prof. Dr. Rahim Md. Sail, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs), Prof. Dato' Dr. Ir. Zohadie Badaie, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development), Prof. Dr. Kamel Arrifin, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Prof. Di Yurbery, Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University, Australia.

Honorary members service full rights and privileges of the society and are selected based on their contributions to the community, the university, and its students. More than 8,000 honorary members have been named to the society including President Bill Clinton and former first lady Barbara Bush among others.

The ceremony was interrupted with the sudden arrival of the Vice Chancellor, "...I was rushing back from a MoU signing purposely to attend this grand event." He received certificate and pin from Mark Herndon to be honoured as an honorary member of the society.



The 3 recipients of scholarship and 3 key persons of Golden Key

The presentation of certificate to ordinary members was carried out next where representatives of each faculty received their certificates from the Vice Chancellor, while others were standing and cheering in order to get recognised.

Kow Fong Kin from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science was one of the scholarship recipients. Kow carries a 3.966 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). He is a member of Faculty Students Association and Tae Kwan Do Association. Lim Lay Ling, another scholarship recipient, comes from Faculty of Food Studies and Biotechnology and carries a 3.841 CGPA. She is a member of Taichi and Kung-fu club and has been on the dean's lists. The third recipient was Shanti Jegathesan, who comes from Faculty of Human Ecology. She is actively involved in college activities as a softball player. She carries 3.833 CGPA.

Pertubuhan Golden Key National Honour Malaysia is the first national academic honour organisation. "...as far as I am concerned, Golden Key is the only society where the students are invited personally by the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs to join as member," said the Vice Chancellor in his keynote address, "...as academic excellent students, you should help those who are poor academically so that everyone has the chance to join this elite society".

The objective of Golden Key is to unite diverse individuals while nurturing and rewarding the academic efforts of top students in all disciplines. Since its inception in 1977, the society has chartered at universities in the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada and Malaysia. With more than 800,000 lifetime members, Golden Key is committed to the recognition, encouragement and promotion of scholastic excellence.

Golden Key chapters are active, student-run organisations on campuses. They vigorously create, organise and manage projects which promote academic achievement, serve the community and provide valuable social interaction.

The ceremony went smoothly and ended with performance from the university's conservatoire. "What a ceremony! This is the best among the three chapters in Malaysia." said Mr. John, the Director of Motorola Incorporation of Singapore. The Universiti Teknologi Malaysia was the first chapter in Malaysia which joined in 1996 followed by Universiti Malaya two days ago.