

a tradition of giving, a culture of bonding

# SERDANG SUN

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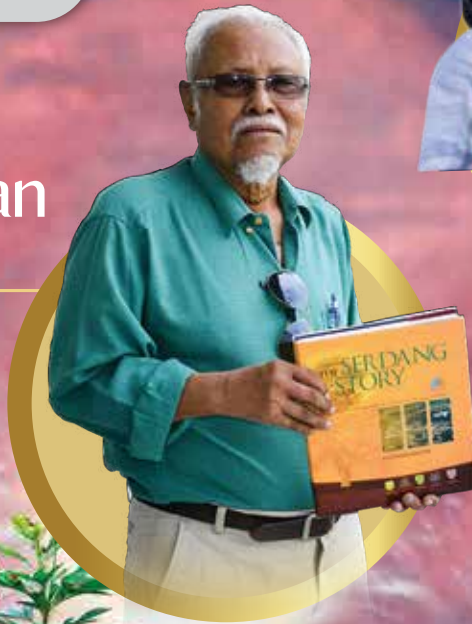


Ravichandran  
Tharumalingam

"UPM at the Top of the  
World@Everest  
A Successful Journey  
from Alumni to *Alma Mater*"

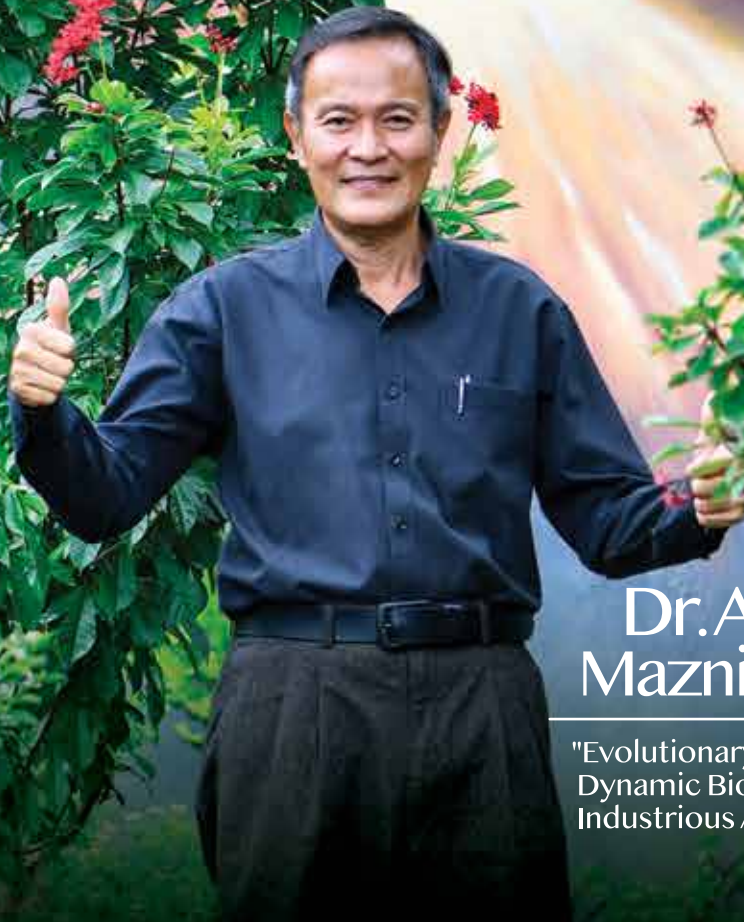
Dr. Othman  
Yaacob

"A Soil Science  
Academic Extraordinaire"



Dr. Abas  
Mazni Othman

"Evolutionary Transformation of a  
Dynamic Bio-Tech Scientist into an  
Industrious Agroindustry Entrepreneur"



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voice of the chief editor

# Engaging Alumni for University Sustainability

It was cited in the Vice-Chancellor Narrative 2022 that "To Take the Steps Together towards Al-Falah" is the practical implementation of actions of "Echoing the Call of Al-Falah from the Tower of Knowledge" in his previous year's narrative. He urged the UPM community to work together, hand in hand, to fulfil the needs and hopes of society. He asserted that obstacles could be overcome if we worked together and most importantly, moved together as a team to achieve the targeted goals and objectives.

The Vice-Chancellor Narrative 2022 outlined 11 aspirations to navigate the continued success of UPM, both nationally and internationally. Aspiration 11 is significant to the UPM alumni in that it stated, "to engage alumni for university sustainability". Engaging alumni in every phase of the university's evolution is vital. In fact, every notable achievement by the alumni is mirrored back to the university's reputation and, hence prolonging its sustainability.

The theme of the current issue of the Serdang Sun is Alumni Engagement for University Sustainability. Noteworthy feats and success of UPM alumni in their particular forte are featured in the 2022 issue. This issue highlights the achievements of UPM distinguished alumni, namely, Ravichandran Tharumalingam for conquering Mount Everest, Dr. Othman Yaacob, a soil scientist extraordinaire and

Dr. Abas Mazni Othman, an industrious agroindustry entrepreneur. Additionally, the first convocation ceremony held at the UPM Bintulu campus is also featured so that precious moments of joy and triumph could be shared with the UPM community throughout the country and abroad.

John F. Kennedy, the 35<sup>th</sup> US President, once said "The success of any school can be measured by the contribution of the alumni to our national life".

Last but not least, it is my hope that Serdang Sun will continue to publish inspiring stories from the alumni community and together we soar to new heights of engagement and networking.



## PUSAT PERHUBUNGAN ALUMNI

ALUMNI RELATIONSHIP CENTRE




Features

# UPM at the Top of the World@ Everest

Writer: Suziana Che Wil  
Alumni Relations Centre UPM

A Successful Journey from Alumni to *Alma Mater*



UPM's mission to the Top of the World@Everest is akin to a dream within a dream. This dream has now become a reality when Ravichandran Tharumalingam engraved his name as the first Malaysian to climb Mount Everest solo which reaches a height of 8,850 metres above sea level.

When talking about the greatness of conquering Mount Everest, what comes to mind are the challenges and obstacles before reaching the top. With extreme weather challenges, steep and slippery routes, and a high risk of death, anyone who successfully conquers the summit of Everest is crowned as a person with high self-confidence. One person who managed to leave his name as one of the world's renown climbers is UPM Class 1990 Alumnus, Ravichandran Tharumalingam.

Who would have thought that a village boy who went on to continue his studies at Universiti Putra Malaysia in the field of Agricultural Business and a person who loves football, carved his name as the First Malaysian Solo Climber to Conquer Mount Everest.

The Serdang Sun editorial session had the opportunity to hear for themselves how this success was built and finally, his name is now known throughout the Himalayas as a climber who is fearless against challenges and continues to conquer from one peak to another. His greatness is now an inspiration to every climber who wants to conquer the highest peak.

I used to treat climbing as just an interest. I used to be someone who loved football very much and played football every day. From childhood to UPM my world was football. But we have to remember that we only plan based on what we see at that time, what happens in the future is what we need to

polish and develop that will give us satisfaction." He said.

Recalling his childhood, Ravichandran grew up in a village in Kuala Pilah. As an ordinary village boy he went to school and did the children's normal routine. But he said, looking back, this climb is very close to his way of life. His hometown was on a hill, always going in and out of the forest and walking kilometres away from home to school, that was the beginning of his self-building to become a climber today.

"At that time, I did not realize that I was actually very close to nature and loved nature very much. But at that time, I felt that I was enjoying my childhood. Today, I realize that I have been building this success since I was a child. Personally, there is no easy way to carve your name and achieve success. It is a process that takes a long time and every step of the process must be followed according to plan," he said.

The year 2006 changed everything. But the journey before achieving success for the first time needs to be told. Something that began as just an interest turned into something more serious.

"When I was approaching my 30s, I began to look for a sport or lifestyle that give me more challenges.

In 1990, I started to switch to hiking activities. The longer the event, the more fun it is and I see it as a challenging outdoor activity. This is where the dream begins. The dream of conquering the peak of the highest mountain in the world. I know this dream is not easy to achieve. Various mental and physical preparations were made starting in 1999. It took a long time because this is not something to joke about. I carry the name of the country and the sacred symbol, the Jalur Gemilang. The real picture was still not visible because this is my first time and I knew that the mountain has claimed many lives and thus, I need a strong mental preparation."



### A Mixture of Feelings Between Joy, Fear and Sadness

Ravichandran Tharumalingam is very committed to everything he does. The year 2006 really tested his endurance. Starting from the first day of arrival in Tibet, China, he felt very small and dwarfed when he saw climbers from other countries, especially countries that were using high-tech equipment. Nonetheless, he continued with his fighting spirit and Ravichandran was determined that the Jalur Gemilang will be waved at the top of Mount Everest.

“This was for me the most difficult moment in my life. We went there with equipment that was not as advanced as climbers from other countries. But our determination and goal were the same, which was to capture the peak of Mount Everest. This challenge can be successfully overcome not because of which country we came from, but by looking at the extent of how strong the fighting spirit was within us.”

“At this time, I was reminded of my childhood. Nature, hiking, and walking to school were the lifestyle that had shaped my destiny. UPM, on the other hand, continued to make me a truly confident person, shaping me into someone who does not give up easily. Finally, the real thing begins. It was only when the climb started that I saw the real situation. The weather conditions were cold, slippery, and windy. This time seeing many people lost their lives and one of them was a fellow climber from the same group really puts pressure on me.” He said.

In 2006, Jalur Gemilang was successfully waved at the top of Mount Everest. In the blink of an eye, his name was praised. But something remained in his heart.

“I have mixed feelings. I am glad the mission was successful and I’m still alive. But I realized there was something wrong with me. I could not move my fingers and I couldn’t even take off the glove to see what was wrong, the feeling of happiness turned into fear. When I arrived at the third encampment, I immediately sought help and found that I had frostbite and I was at risk of losing a finger. Like an ice rock from a mountain falling on me. I was stunned. I needed help immediately. However, the challenge in Tibet was the difficulty to move. Every 50 km there were restrictions due to the turbulent state of Tibet. Okay, I got frostbite and my fingers have turned into bruises. I hope to get help soon.” He said.

Upon arrival in Malaysia, he received a lot of praises and everyone congratulated him on his success of climbing Mount Everest. But no one knows the pressure and questions that he was unable to find the answers. Success at the top of Everest had turned into a mixed feeling. He felt guilty for leaving a helpless friend at the top of the mountain. Losing a finger and not seeing anyone who understood the anxiety and stress he was facing.



“This success was also a starting point from the spirit and chant of the 2022 Vice Chancellor’s Narrative, the 11<sup>th</sup> aspiration of “Alumni Engagement for the University’s Sustainability.”



“At the end of 2007, I decided to return to Mount Everest again. It was like going back to my ‘home’. I needed to solve all the problems and pressures in me.

There are many people in the same situation as me who lost their noses, arms and legs. I felt the need to talk to them. That’s what’s going on in me. Despite the various compliments I receive, I felt I’m alone. Every day I heard the words that I was the last person to leave a friend at the top of Mount Everest who was unable to move and waiting to die. I could only pat him on the shoulder and continued down from the peak.

The situation haunted me at that time. Thus, the climb in 2007 can be classified as my climb to resolve issues related to myself and me going there to find confidence and spirit again,” he said.

## UPM Mission to the Top of the World@Everest

His meeting with the Secretary General of the UPM Alumni Association, Tuan Haji Ghazali Salamat, led to something that has great meaning for UPM. His ascent to the top of Mount Everest for the third time will bring the UPM Mission to the Top of the World@Everest. As a UPM alumnus, he was confident that what he was doing will also inspire other alumni and UPM community.

“This is a sign of appreciation and gratitude to UPM because I believe that my success today is rooted in UPM. The University has shaped me to be a person who believes in my abilities and taught me to always be brave to take chances and believe that every risk that comes is an opportunity to change myself for the better. Carrying the UPM flag to the top of Everest, will inspire all other alumni to be equally proud of their *alma mater*. Returning to contribute to my *alma mater* in various ways and I choose to make my *alma mater* proud according to what I have achieved as a climber of Mount Everest.”

The mission started in March 2022 to make preparations in Kathmandu, Nepal. The ascent started in May 2022 and ended at the end of June 2022. On May 12, 2022, the Class of 1990 Alumnus succeeded in making all UPM community proud and especially UPM alumni when the UPM flag was raised at the top of Mount Everest. This success was also a starting point from the spirit and chant of the 2022 Vice Chancellor’s Narrative, the 11<sup>th</sup> aspiration of “Alumni engagement for the University’s sustainability”. By bringing the slogan ‘from alumni to UPM’, Ravichandran had spread a high fighting spirit not only for himself but for all UPM community.

“When YH. Dato’ Prof. Dr. Roslan Sulaiman, UPM Vice Chancellor handed over the UPM flag to me in front of almost 600 UPM graduates, at the last 45<sup>th</sup> UPM Convocation Ceremony, it is a spirit that I do not think exists anywhere except at my *alma mater*. I feel the support from my *alma mater* is very strong and as an alumnus, this is the time for me to repay back all the kindness given to me. Cheering from the new graduates who will also carry the title of alumni makes my adrenaline rush and I can’t wait to succeed in the UPM Mission at the Top of the World@Everest. Finally, on May 12, 2022, I did it and UPM was now at the top of the world. An inspiration for all UPM community that this success is a symbol of an unyielding fighting spirit and success will come with effort and a spirit that does not give up easily,” he said enthusiastically.



## Features

The success and inspiration did not stop there. This achievement should always be remembered, and new students should be told about the success of UPM to inject them with a fighting spirit. These people are the new generation of UPM who as alumni also need to do things that will make their *alma mater* proud.

### From Alumni to UPM

Alumni and *alma mater* is a bond that will never break. It does not mean that the last day you are in the convocation stage receiving your diploma is your last day with the university. When holding the status of alumni, what should be instilled in oneself is the role that needs to be played to bring the university to the pinnacle of success.

Alumni achievements are a symbol of the university's success. These people are very close to the students. Alumni are an icon most trusted by students because they come from the same background. They studied in the same lecture room, with the same mission and vision, and the same goal. Alumni are ambassadors of the university to invite students to continue fighting the first day they step into the university. The relationship will continue and there is no full stop.

"Through the success of the UPM Mission at the Top of the World@ Everest, I feel that the alumni need to continue playing their roles. The new generation enrolling in university needs to be made aware that they are not alone in this struggle. They also need to be prepared with a high sense of self-esteem. Here is where alumni

need to be present to encourage them. The slogan From Alumni to UPM' gives a lot of inspiration to contribute," he said.

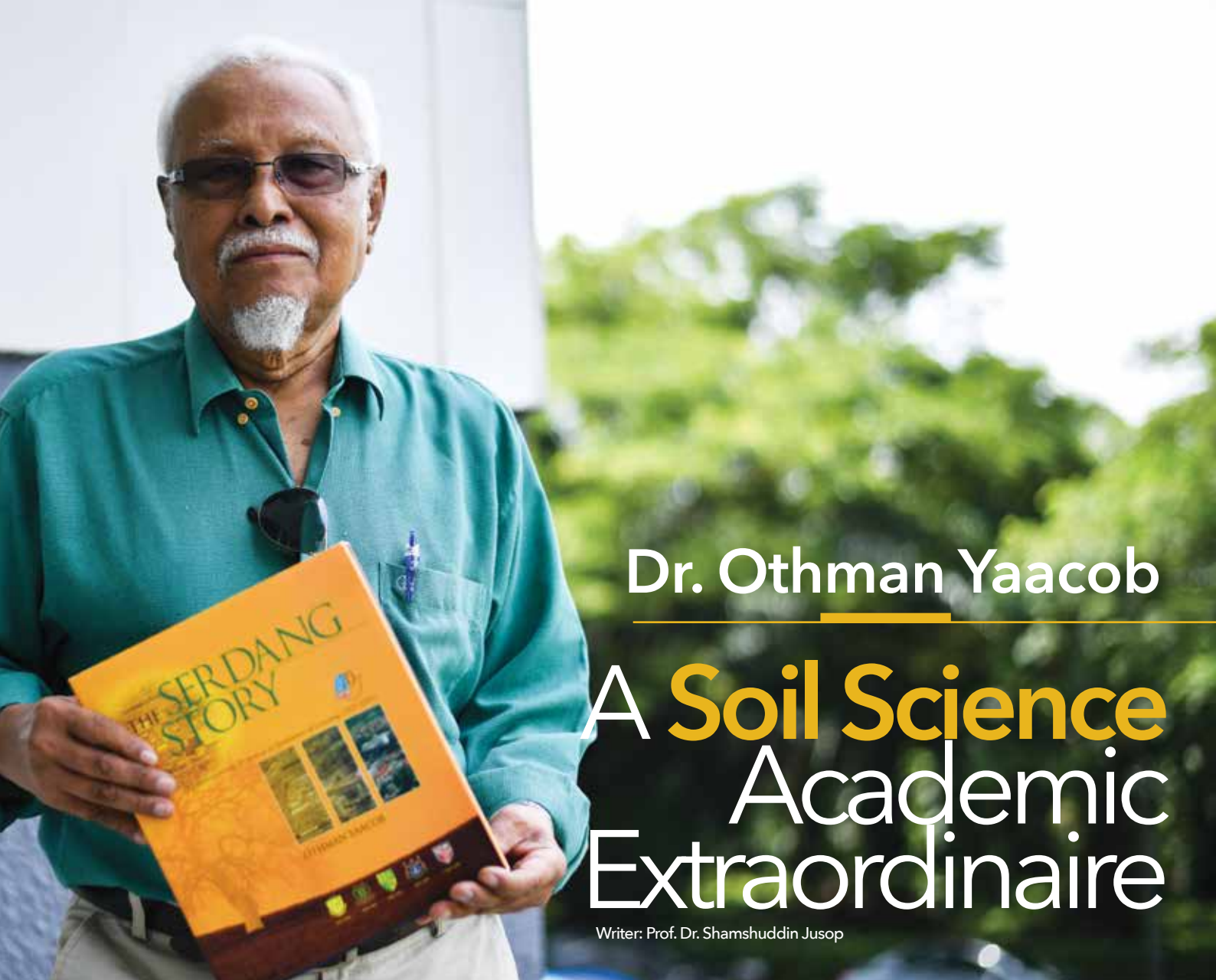
Various efforts have been made by the university to bring alumni to their *alma mater*. This is to support the university's mission to become an internationally reputable university. The alumni need to translate their support to their *alma mater* by returning to the university to contribute. Donations are not only in the form of financial funding but can also be interpreted in various ways, especially the transfer of knowledge, ideas, and

togetherness in every university project for the benefit of students.

"As a UPM alumnus myself, I am always ready to provide my expertise to new students. These people need to be exposed to creativity in creating career opportunities for themselves. In addition, this field needs to be disclosed since UPM is a leader in the field of agriculture and forestry. This knowledge needs to be passed down to be successful," - Ravichandran.







Dr. Othman Yaacob

# A Soil Science Academic Extraordinaire

Writer: Prof. Dr. Shamshuddin Jusop

## Introduction

Universiti Pertanian Malaysia which was later renamed Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) was established in 1971 by an Act of Parliament. Within a short span of 50 years, it had developed by leaps and bounds in size and stature, with academic reputation comparable to the world's best. UPM is now ranked at number 123 according to the QS World University Rankings. Hard work and commitment by the academic staff, students and the university management enable UPM to reach this far, aiming higher in time to come.

The faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences were the three founding faculties during the formative years of UPM. In the Faculty of Agriculture, one lecturer worth mentioning is Dr. Othman Yaacob who has the distinction of being the first Professor of Soil Science in the university. Dr. Othman Yaacob, who hailed from Perlis, was a professor for ten years (1984-1994).

Dr. Othman had contributed much to the agricultural development in Malaysia. His early work shows that the overall environment - rainfall and dry period in Perlis is conducive for Harumanis mango variety, which is still grown by individuals within their household compounds. The state

Department of Agriculture once had a big well-laid out plantation at Batu Pahat.

In case of sugarcane grown on a large scale at Chuping, the sugar content is high during dry season. Harvest, however, is difficult as almost all canes are covered with their dry, dead leaves. Controlled burning of dry leaves was practised. This makes mechanical harvesting possible. Moreover, the carbon from burnt leaves seems to clear the juice mechanically squeezed out from the canes at Gula Perlis factory.

Dr. Othman was revered by his students, especially during the

## Features

College of Agriculture Malaya (CAM) days in Serdang. To the students of the Diploma of Agriculture, he was a lecturer without equal and hence commanded great respect, they nicknamed him "Pak Long". Dr. Othman and his colleagues (me included) frequently spent many hours together exchanging notes about life. We spent quality time talking about soil types found common in the country and also reminiscent of the good old days when we were once young academic staff. Dr. Othman had some knowledge about the properties of soils under old-rubber trees at Serdang Estate and elsewhere in Malaysia.

Two of his famous quotations:

1. "UPM can get rid of me out of Serdang, but it can never ever get Serdang out of me". (Source: The Serdang Story book)
1. "If you still don't understand, either you are stupid students or I am a stupid lecturer, or we are all stupid people". (Source: Ariffin Darus, a student from the Diploma of Agriculture, College of Agriculture Malaya).

In an interview at the Alumni Relations Centre, UPM (ACUPM), Dr. Othman recounted his life journey during the College of Agriculture Malaya and UPM days, and his thoughts on the current issues in UPM. At the age of 82, he is still in good health, with his mind as sharp as ever. Some of the topics discussed were the renaming of UPM from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia to Universiti Putra Malaysia in 1997, the pros and cons, the advantages and disadvantages of the new name and the diverse opinions from alumni of UPM. However, to many in the public sectors in Malaysia, the name change was a fitting tribute to Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first prime minister, who made Malaysia what it is today. Tunku's name is also immortalized as the new administrative capital of the country - Putrajaya.



The writer having a light moment during dinner with Dr. Othman (right picture) and the left picture showed two former colleagues, from left: Dr. Sharifuddin and Ahmad Hj Ebon



Dr Othman was interviewed by the writer at the Alumni Relations Centre

## Othman's Life Journey

### Born and Bred in Perlis

My Iranian student said to me "Teach me one word, I will be your slave forever". Such is the respect commonly shown by students to their revered teachers/lecturers in schools, colleges or universities in Iran. One professor at UPM that fits this quote is Dr. Othman Yaacob, who was born in 1939 (just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War) and was brought up in Perlis (the northernmost state in Malaysia). He is not only a good friend, but also my mentor. He taught me effective and precise writing research papers and books. I have great respect for his contribution to nation building though in a very small way. To me, he is a professor of soil science without equal.

“To the students of the Diploma of Agriculture, he was a lecturer without equal and hence commanded great respect, they nicknamed him "Pak Long".”

He was born in semi-rural Perlis, the northern state of Peninsular Malaysia. His father worked with government services, dealing with land and agriculture. The young Othman worked with his father and was paid daily. That initial introduction to agriculture triggered his interest to pursue this field as a lifelong occupation. This exposure gave him the opportunity to understand soil and/or land as well as agricultural production.

In early 1968, he married Mariam Yee in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Living in Kajang, Selangor, he is now blessed with four children and eleven grandchildren.

## Studying at an English School in Kuala Kangsar

The boarding school system taught and molded young boys from 10 to 17 years old to be responsible and disciplined youth. From a Malay school in Perlis, he was admitted to the Malay College Kuala Kangsar (MCKK) where English public school system was rigidly imposed by European headmaster on young Malay boys from various strata of the Malay society. In the Senior Cambridge examination of 1957, out of 92 students, a third of them obtained first grade. These students were mostly sent to the United Kingdom for university education. Others went to universities in Australia, Canada and New Zealand mostly on the Colombo Plan Scheme.

## College of Agriculture Malaya, Serdang

After seven years in all-Malay boarding school at the MCKK, studying at Serdang gave him an opportunity to live and work together with young Malaysians of other ethnic groups. This is the real Malaysia that we know today.

He was admitted to the College of Agriculture Malaya another boarding in Serdang in 1958 to study for a Diploma in Agriculture. The student enrolment of the college at that time was on quota basis - i.e., one or two students from each state in Malaya plus a few from Sarawak, Sabah, Singapore, and Brunei. Othman graduated from the College of Agriculture Malaya in 1961. He was then appointed as Agricultural Assistant at the Department of Agriculture, Kedah. The institution transformed boys into young men capable of life outside was based at the Gajah Mati Station. That station dealt mainly with the production of fodders for cattle and citrus crops.

## Lincoln College, New Zealand

With a diploma from the College of Agriculture Malaya, he was ready for a university education. At that time, the entry requirement for a BSc degree in Agriculture in the universities of the Commonwealth countries was a Higher School Certificate (HSC). He took the examination and passed with good grades. He was admitted to Lincoln College, New Zealand under the Federal Teaching Scholarship Scheme. He proceeded to obtain a Master's Degree. Professor T.W. Walker taught him soil science. Professor Walker was one of the top soil scientists in the English-speaking world. Othman was appointed a lecturer in soil science at the College of Agriculture Malaya, Serdang early 1968.

## PhD at The University of New England, Australia

In 1972, Othman obtained a Commonwealth government scholarship to study for PhD at the University of New England (UNE), NSW, Australia, and graduated in 1977. Professor Graeme Blair taught him how to write research papers for journals. Work not written up is work not done, according to him. Othman was then appointed as the Head of the Department of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. He did a lot of research on local problem soil and agriculture, traveling widely within the country and overseas to present his results. He published the data in high impact journals of that time, including Plant and Soil among others. He and colleagues, including one from Thailand, wrote a few books meant for students in Malaysia and for overseas market.

## A Centre of Excellence for Agriculture in Serdang

According to Dr. Othman, the idea of establishing a university in Serdang was mooted way back in late 1960s by a group who once studied at the College of Agriculture Malaya - Mohd Rashid Ahmad (*Pak Rashid*), Dr. Agoes Salim, Dr Rashdan Baba and Dato' Abu Bakar Mahmud. The college was the education arm of the Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture. The proposal received the blessing and full support from the former students, either working with the government or in private sectors. The idea to make Serdang a centre of excellence for agricultural education in the country was supported by Tun Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister himself. Universiti Pertanian Malaysia was proclaimed

## Features

in 1971 by merging the College of Agriculture Malaya (at Serdang) with the New Zealand government-funded Faculty of Agriculture, University of Malaya (at Kuala Lumpur). The merger of the two institutions assured that agricultural education was ready to take the responsibility to produce trained workers needed for a fast-developing Malaysia. Agriculture was then the mainstay of Malaysia's economy.

During the interview at the Alumni Relations Centre, we talked at length about how to enhance the quality of agricultural education and strengthened the knowledge of the academic staff in the field of agriculture. This is a very important issue if UPM is to remain a leader in agriculture.

The aim of the discussion that day was to make sure that the good reputation of Universiti Putra Malaysia and its world-class status is sustained. Though UPM at Serdang grew from strength to strength with the addition of other fields of studies such as pure sciences, medicine, and engineering, it never abandoned agriculture – it will remain as its core business for a forcible future.



**The early batch of the Bachelor of Agricultural Science students in Universiti Pertanian Malaysia. Dr. Othman Yaccob, (front row, extreme right)**

## To Sustain UPM's Good Reputation

Quality education is crucial to the survival of UPM. Dr. Othman and I discussed this issue during the interview. It is said that there is a lump of flesh in the body that makes a difference in our life. If it is good, our body and soul will be fine. Otherwise, we may end up in bad shape. That lump of flesh is the heart. It is the one that makes us human. The brain gives advice to the heart when the time comes for making a crucial decision. Without good and proper advice from the brain, lust dominates us, and this is bad for business. If that happens, the integrity of the decision-maker is somewhat compromised. It is what integrity in the heart is all about.

We believed that professors in a university should have integrity in their heart. Every decision made has to be carefully thought of – i.e., it has to come from the heart. This is especially true during *the viva voce* of a PhD thesis. The award of PhD to the candidate has to be based on merit. The professor has to stand firm on the quality of the thesis submitted. The appointment of professors should be based on the criteria set by the university, with emphasis on integrity. Dr. Othman stressed that professors must know why they were at UPM and what they were there

for. They are not only responsible for what they do, but also for what they do not do. This is integrity.

## An Academic Extraordinaire

Among his legacies are his thoughts and ideas on soil and/or agriculture and also the many books published that are used by students and members of the public. Dr. Othman has a passion for writing – he is an accomplished writer. So far, there are five books to his name, textbook for students, memoirs, and articles on mango and carambola for Malaysia Air Lines inflight magazine *Wings of Gold* now renamed *Going Places*. These articles enabled him and the photographer – Shani Hashim – to travel on MAS for free, sometimes in business class. Writing a textbook means that he cared for students who took courses in soil science or agriculture when he was a professor in the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture at UPM. The first textbook he wrote was *Sains Tanah* published in 1982 by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP). I was the co-author. The book was written in Malay because the medium of instruction in UPM at that time was Bahasa Melayu (Malay). This book was also used by students at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

The young lecturer, Dr. Syed Omar Syed Rastan, noted the students nearly “murdered” the three copies of *Sains Tanah*, deposited in UPM Library by continuously photocopying them. Dr. Othman and Syed Omar went over to the DBP and bought the remaining unsold copies of the book at about RM 8 wholesale price. The cost of photocopy was RM10. They sold them brand new copies to the students for RM 10 – which was nearly the cost of photocopying the book at the library, making a profit of RM 2 for each book sold to the students. We believed the students sold their new books to

incoming students, year after year. There was business all round. Now, Dr. Syed Omar Syed Rastan is a very successful businessman.

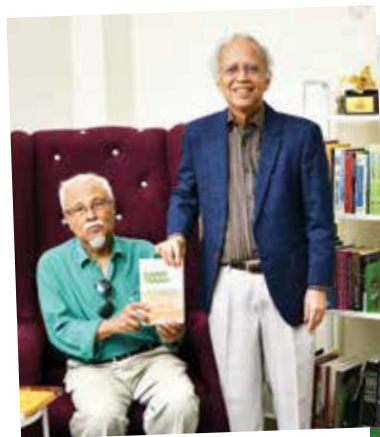
The idea of writing the book was mooted in late 1970s. To get the idea on the contents of the book, we spent time together thinking when and where to begin. An opportunity came when we went for a trip to monitor students of Bachelor of Agricultural Science, who were on practical training. We stopped for a break at the Sultan Idris Training College (SITC), Tanjung Malim. That was when we came up with a title and contents of the book.

Another book Dr. Othman wrote to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UPM was *The Serdang Story*. The aim was to chronicle the history of UPM starting from the School of Agriculture Malaya, College of Agriculture Malaya and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Dr. Othman also wrote a memoir about his life journey and experiences during his tenure in UPM. I asked him what motivated him to write such a comprehensive memoir. He said that the memoirs contained useful

Dr. Othman contributed something to the agricultural development in Malaysia. Among the early research he conducted with his students was on cashew nut production on the BRIS Soils, very sandy soils found along the coastal regions of Terengganu. The results of the study became important references for scholars, researchers and students working to enhance the productivity of the crop. As a soil scientist, he was active in advisory services - working as a consultant to various projects related to soil and/or agriculture in Malaysia and Indonesia. While working as a professor of soil science, he sat in many committees established by government institutions (e.g., Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute) or private sectors (e.g., agriculture related companies involved in production of durian and mango) as an advisor. In addition, FAO sought his opinions and advice on how to sustain the growth and production of tropical fruits (e.g., mangosteen).

Dr. Othman's illustrious academic career ended in 1994 when he retired from UPM at the age of 55. After the interview, I invited Dr. Othman and his daughter



Dr. Othman (seated) and the writer with the book, *Sains Tanah* (1982), *The Serdang Story* (2005) and the memoir, *The Transitional Generation* (2011)



Dr. Othman, his daughter (right) and an official of the Alumni Relations Centre (left)

ideas and experiences for others to emulate to become a complete academic and to be known to his peers. He gave me a copy of the memoirs after it was published.

He also published a book with a professor from Thailand, *The Production of Economic Fruits in Southeast Asia* (1995) by Oxford University Press Malaysia. Another book he wrote was The FAO Manual on Mangosteen. Dr. Othman contributed a chapter in a book *Fruit of Indonesia* which was published in 1995 by Editions Dieder Millet Pte Ltd, Singapore. The book was an idea of Ibu Tien Soeharto for the officiating the opening of tropical fruit garden near Bogor, Indonesia.

to walk around the office of Alumni Relations Centre. All were new to him as he has not returned to UPM for quite sometime.

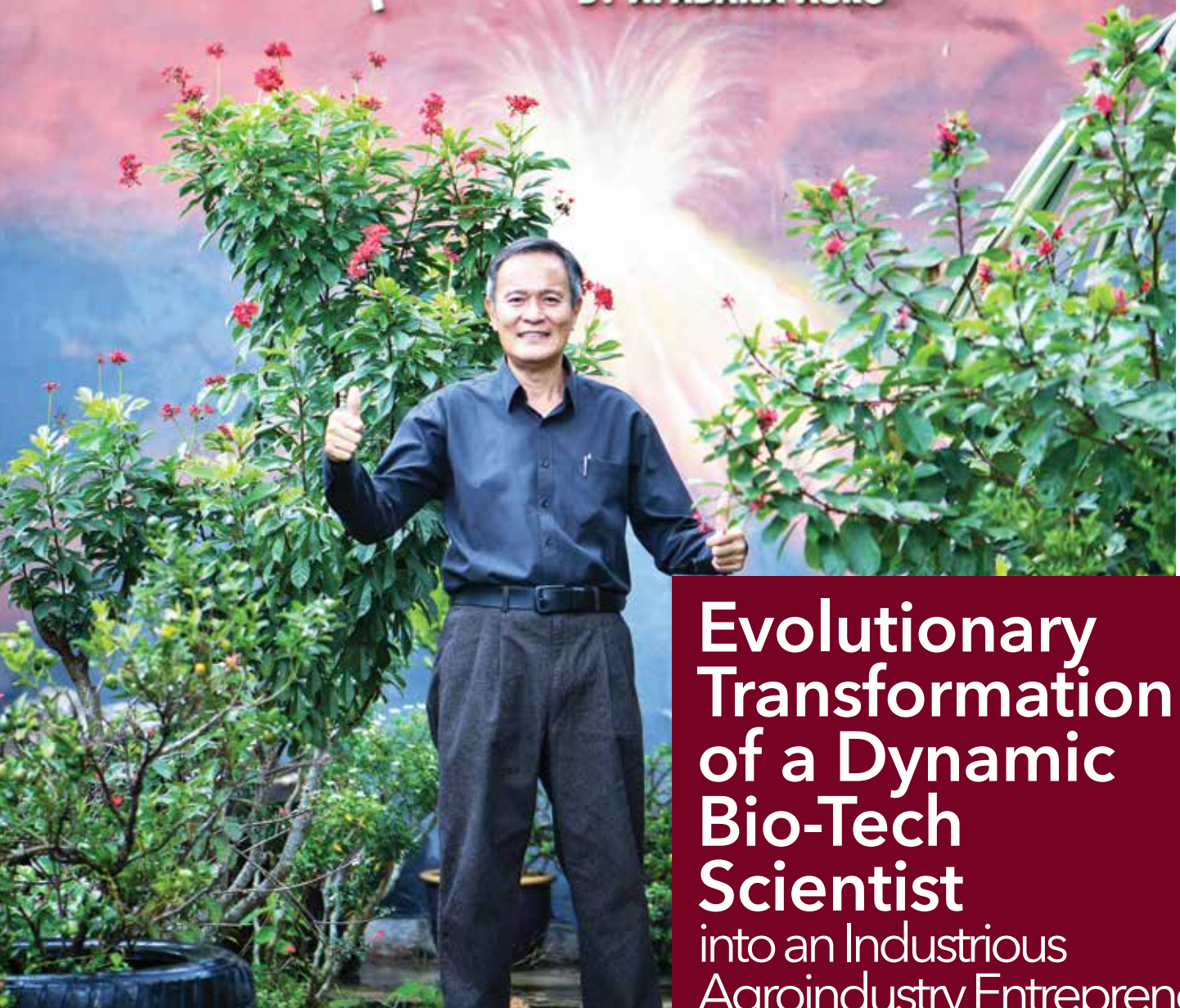
## Time is of the Essence

Dr. Othman is now 82, and I am 75 years. Thus, when there is an opportunity to meet friends, especially former colleagues at UPM, we never missed the chance. One of the best occasions to meet is at the *Hari Raya* gathering organized by the *Persatuan Pesara*. We attended the *Hari Raya 2022*, at the 13<sup>th</sup> College, UPM.



# THE PLOT

BY APADANA AGRO



**Evolutionary  
Transformation  
of a Dynamic  
Bio-Tech  
Scientist**  
into an Industrious  
Agroindustry Entrepreneur

Writer: Baharudin Mohd Shah (Alumni Class 1984)



Dr. Abas Mazni Othman was born in the vibrant cosmopolitan town of Johor Bahru, Malaysia, in 1955, amidst the echoes and clamours of independence as Malaysia was gearing to be released from the shackle of colonialism in 1957. This atmospheric influence of the independent times synchronises with his spirit of determination, courage and independence of mind that soon emerged as a dominant trait in his personality and life's work. In the aftermath of independence, Malaysia



was also fiercely embarking on a modernization programme to overcome poverty, under the stewardship of two well-known premiers at that time, Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak premier between 1970-1976, and Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, twice premiers between 1981-2003 and 2018-2020. Mahathir, in particular, envisioned Malaysia to be an Asian industrialised tiger with his "Look East Policy". Dr. Abas witnessed a career that saw him as an outstanding biotech scientist/bioentrepreneur to later becoming an industrious agroindustry entrepreneur (1990 - present) seemed to match appropriately with the visions of both premiers, which were also a source of personal inspiration for Dr. Abas to be a resourceful game changer in understanding, researching and appreciating the value of the planet earth, substantially Malaysia's rich natural fauna and flora heritage.

His colourful and meaningful journey, began in 1973, soon after he left Aminuddin Baki Secondary School, Johor Bahru, which was among the best leading schools that provided an English-medium education. At this juncture, as a brilliant student, (achieved Grade One in both the Lower School Certificate (LCE) and Malaysian School Certificate (MCE) he had to make a crucial and critical decision, that could set the path of his future calling. His dilemma was choosing a vocation either in agriculture or in medicine. In 1973, he enrolled in the Diploma of Agriculture course at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, now known as Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). He was accepted in the first year but in the second year, he was promoted to do a degree course in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). This change of fortune was due to several extenuating circumstances. UPM, at that time

was just beginning to convert most of its diploma courses to degree courses and was looking for bright, promising students to enrol in its programmes. Dr. Abas matched the course requirements, and he was also offered a scholarship by the esteemed Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). Studying veterinary medicine was a fledgling yet promising science, where its future potential would involve proficiency in Bio-Tech science, besides the high-tech Artificial Intelligence courses that were too irresistible for any idealistic young student at that time not to grab.

At UPM, he was hardened by practical field work and absorbed 80% of the lessons through listening. He was also in the usual rough and tumble of student passionate activities, such as sports, and student debates, besides becoming an active member of the Malay martial art "Silat Gayong" society. His peers included Datin Paduka Setia Dato Professor Dr. Aini Ideris a former Vice Chancellor of UPM (2016-2020), Professor Dr. Rehana Abdullah Sani and many others.

After graduating as a veterinary doctor in 1979, with excellent results, he served MARDI. On several occasions, UPM had tried

## Features



to entice him to join them, but unfortunately, he was tied down with the terms of the MARDI scholarship contract. However, he spent his time well in MARDI and the big moment came when in 1984, he was bestowed a more prestigious scholarship to do his Master and PhD in Veterinary Science in Japan, namely, at the Department of Theriogenology, Hokkaido University, Sapporo. At that time, as part of the Malaysian government's "Look East policy", Malaysian scholars were sent to Japan to emulate the know-how of what made the Japanese tick in moulding a successfully developed nation.

At first, he was quite apprehensive about going to Japan. However, partly cajoled by his boss with a Hobson's choice (either you go or do not go at all) and partly motivated by his own intrepid inclination, he decided to go. This later saddled him with seemingly challenging and unavoidable circumstances. He had to master a new language, namely, the



Japanese language and he was recently married, with a newborn baby and had to bring his whole family to Japan to start a new life. In the first year, he enrolled as a Kenyusei (research student) and attended a full-time Japanese language course. In Japan, he learned the meaning of Japanese punctuality, perseverance, discipline, consistency and teamwork. It was a remarkable feat that he managed to complete both his Master and PhD within the stipulated timeline of five

years. His research supervisor, Professor Hiroshi Kanagawa who was a rigorous task Master would persistently monitor his work and ensured that he did everything on time. This contributed very much to Abas academic success apart from his own diligence and commitment.

Dr. Abas returned to Malaysia in 1990, highly motivated, knowledgeable and determined to blaze new trails of veterinarian science research in Malaysia. His



approach to life was fairly simple: Plan your works/targets and work your plan/targets. He mapped his own journey and goals as a biotech scientist in different capacities as a researcher, an academic lecturer, an external tertiary examiner at the Bachelor, Masters and PhD level programmes, as an evaluator, an animal/human anatomy consultant and as a bio-entrepreneur. His main speciality was in the field of embryology, veterinary medicine, reproductive biotechnology and cryobiology and crossbreeding of animals. (Estrus synchronization, artificial insemination, superovulation, embryo transfer, cryopreservation of sperm and embryo, *in vitro* fertilization and micromanipulation). His laboratory was at the state-of-the-art research facilities in MARDI, specifically at the Livestock Production Division and Biotechnology Research

databases overseas. He went to Bulgaria, West Germany, France, America, Tsukuba, Thailand and New Zealand, spending time ranging from one week to three months conducting fruitful research relevant to Malaysian society. His scholastic ventures included presenting his research studies, attending courses and workshops, conducting and participating in an academic engagement at eminent international and national events and organisations. Most of his research were published in research papers, articles and books gleaned from both his local and overseas experiences. To date, he had published, authored and co-authored 162 scientific papers and meticulously recorded all his professional activities. Most of his research works can be accessed on the Internet, such as at <https://www.researchgate.net>.

Later, the then, Malaysia prime minister, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi premier 2003-2009, with his 2005, "National Biotechnology Policy" (NBI), also wanted to see tangible value derived from the scientific research works. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005, Dr. Abas became the team leader that secured a loan of RM58.4 million from the Malaysia Ministry of Finance for the commercial production of high-quality beef cattle and goats using Advanced Reproductive Biotechnology (ARB).

Anyway, as part of NBI, Dr Abas moved on as the technical group team leader of a RM250 millions cattle project, entitled, "Development of the Beef, cattle industry in Malaysia - A Jump Start", by Malaysian Livestock Corporation Industries Sdn Bhd (MLCI) under the aegis of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).

His other roles were as social and financial adviser to Zanubah Batik Craft (1987-2004) and Cooperative Board Member of Al-Hidayah, Dengkil surau (prayer hall) (2014-2019). On behalf of the government, he also collaborated in international joint cooperative projects with countries such as Japan, USA, Thailand, New Zealand and Iran from 1987 to 2010.

In recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to science, he won numerous accolades and awards. Notably, the MARDI Distinction Service Awards in 1993, 1997 and 2004. He also won the Bronze, Silver and Gold medals from Malaysia and Geneva as an acknowledgement of his numerous innovations and inventions. Besides his busy schedule, he also became a member of several non-governmental organisations (NGO) and professional bodies, such as the MASMARDI and UPM Veterinary Alumni Association, Malaysia Mushroom Research Association and the Japanese

Centre. He also shouldered leadership responsibilities as team leader, head researcher and later senior/principal researcher.

Dr. Abas, inherited his father's pioneering disposition, as like his father, he had a relentless passion to break new grounds, discover new knowledge and never gave up or entertained feelings of being overwhelmed or burnout. Not content with the local research sources, he probed into the advanced veterinarian research

The clarion call towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in academia, was that research outcomes could become the cash cow that could bring lucrative benefits to scientists, institutions and countries. As part of the trend, Dr. Abas was initiated into the world of commerce. First, as the Board of Directors of RISDA Livestock, Sdn. Bhd, a subsidiary company of RISDA (Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority) dealing with cattle integration in oil palm plantations from 1998 to 2011.



## Features

Graduate Association of Malaysia, among others. The news of his research appeared in local newspapers, magazines and television stations from 1991 to 2007. However, sometimes he was quite annoyed that some of his good research did not get enough coverage, such as his new crossbred, "Selembu" (seladang-lembu or Gaur-Cattle hybrid) species, a landmark RM2.5 million project in 2007, using in vitro fertilisation and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICS) techniques.

Nevertheless, as his sterling reputation and credential spread far and wide, he was eventually seconded to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) (2008-2010), as the Head of the Livestock Biotechnology Centre, Agro-Biotechnology Institute Malaysia (ABI). He was no stranger to MOSTI, as having assisted them in coordinating projects under both MOSTI's TECHNOTECH and INNOTECH funds valued at millions of Malaysian Ringgit. At ABI, he was promoted to the top managerial echelon, premier Grade C, of the Malaysian Civil Service. He was also given the independence to implement his far-reaching savant innovative research and working philosophy. He ushered in an open-door policy for a free flow of discussion. He did not like to control others as he did not like to be controlled himself. There was no set opening and closing time at ABI, as he believed there was no closing time in research works. He coaxed his local and foreign university students and staff to work independently, to adopt Japanese work ethics and to be on par or better than their western counterparts. His multi-tasking experience and expertise included supervising interns and implementing 7 ongoing livestock-related projects, simultaneously.

As in any epoch-making groundbreaking journey, there

would always be a disruption ahead. As soon as he came back to MARDI from MOSTI, he was quite puzzled with his revised invariable terms of the service appointment, notwithstanding, his previous vast working experiences and unblemished service record. Unperturbed by this, Dr. Abas thoughtful response was for a paradigm shift in career. Unwittingly, this was an opportune prime time for him to realise his own long cherished

in Persepolis, Shiraz, Iran, also symbolised the fortitude of the Persian people in striving for tremendous agricultural progress despite facing economic embargo from the west. This spirit also lived in him. During his one-year unpaid leave period, he experienced an interim financial crisis that forced him to be humble to sell cookies and mushrooms to support his family. Thus, applying his tenacious conviction to be self-reliant and independent.



ambition to generate his own autonomous income unfettered by rigid bureaucratic postures and protocols.

As part of his calculated stratagem, he took unpaid leave in 2010 from MARDI, prior to his application for an optional retirement in April 2011. Later, he single-handedly established his own company Apadana Agro Sdn. Bhd. in May 2011 as a sturdy platform to pursue his original interest in agricultural research by consistently creating and capturing new demand for his agroindustry products based on the trendy Blue Ocean Strategy configurations. The name "Apadana" itself meaning the palace of the Persian Empire

Originally, he had no clear-cut notion of what his future business undertaking would entail. Although his company was a single entity, it operated haphazardly at various places such as Dengkil, Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi, Labohan Dagang, Seri Kembangan and Shah Alam. In Dengkil he had a small lab, workshop and office, where he not only conducted Research and Development (R & D) his products from agro-based materials such as zeolite, figs and roselle but also to bake cookies. He farmed splitgill (kukur) mushroom, calamansi lime (limau kasturi), chilli, medicinal herbs and the rearing of Trigona bees.



hobbyists to see the potential economic viability of agriculture as an engine of growth of the modern economy.” He added, “The underlying principle is to rid Agriculture of the 3S stigma (smelly, stinky, shitty)”. Here, you could see Dr. Abas toiling ceaselessly in his farmer garb besides voluntarily teaching others how to create a new product. Corresponding with his Blue Ocean Strategy, “The Plot” maximises the use of space, with minimal maintenance but has a high productivity accomplishment.



A turning point came in 2015, when all his efforts were finally discovered by LPP (Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang), a Farmer Board Association, who invited his company to invest and develop a chilli fertigation project on 10,000 Square feet of land leased from MARDI, at Malaysian Agro Exposition Park (MAEPS). With this concession, he consolidated all his company research, development and commercial activities in one exclusive location.

Subsequently, in 2016, after he established “The PLOT”, as an integral part of the company, he began crafting in concrete terms a comprehensive framework of

his enterprise. He envisaged 10 components for the “The PLOT,” comprising the application of agricultural technology, producing agroindustry-based products for commercial purposes, farming in an urban/paradise garden setting, and regeneration of agriculture which he wanted to exploit in his new utopia domain.

“The PLOT” has many meanings, and one of them is that it is a piece of land where it functions as an informative-educative-innovative agrotourism demo plot. According to him, “This demo plot will hopefully inspire tourists, entrepreneurs, businessmen, farmers, researchers, students,

Dr. Abas believes a person could learn better through a hands-on approach and by experience, without a specific mentor. The important things are that an individual must be able to acquire the basic knowledge, gain the skills, get the experience, keep on upgrading and lastly, must have the right positive attitude, no matter how daunting the tasks. He/She must keep in touch with alumni, professional friends and colleagues for networking and sharing sessions. All are welcome to The PLOT which is open daily from 9 am to 7 pm. His tagline is, “Be the Best of Whatever You Are”.

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## Alumni Class of 2022

from

# UPMKB

Writer: Dr. Alvin Lim Teik Zheng (Alumni Class 2015, 2018)  
Faculty of Humanities, Management and Science,  
UPM Bintulu Campus



Every year, graduating students will receive their graduation scrolls in a momentous convocation ceremony. After many long years of study and effort, it was common to see them beaming with pride as they walked across the stage in their graduation robe receiving their scroll from the Chancellor or President of the University.

The higher education system in Malaysia has expanded greatly in recent decades, and it is no longer reserved for a select few; instead, people from all walks of life now have access to and are encouraged to pursue higher education.

### **Universiti Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu**

Universiti Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu (UPMKB) held its inaugural convocation ceremony on Nov 1, 2022, in Dewan Sri Kenyalang. In this special event, His Royal Highness, Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who is also the University's Chancellor, presented awards to 405 graduands ranging from Diploma to PhD recipients.

The increasing number of graduates each year suggests that UPMKB has been effective in promoting the University as a catalyst for national progress and a prestigious institution in East Malaysia.

Formerly known as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Sarawak, UPMKB is the only research university in East Malaysia that has garnered significant notice for its ability to produce indigenous talent. Today, the campus has undergone numerous upgrades and consists of two faculties and one research centre, namely the Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Science and the Faculty of Humanities, Management, and Science, as well as the Borneo Institute of Ecoscience.



## Features

Unlike previous years, convocation ceremony has always been held in UPM Serdang which combined graduating students from both the Bintulu and Serdang campuses. Therefore, graduands from UPMKB have long been at a disadvantage as they have to receive their graduation scroll from a campus 'foreign' to them.

The task of organising the inaugural convocation in UPMKB was indeed a long and intricate process. As a new academician here, I was privileged to be roped in as one of the committee members. The task group from UPMKB had been working relentlessly to ensure that everything was in order and no hiccups to hamper our progress. Fortunately for us, large numbers of people were brought in from the main campus to assist with the ceremony preparations.

### UPMKB Graduands

For a variety of historical and systemic reasons, UPMKB graduands furthering their studies in the main campus in Serdang were often portrayed as possessing a special trait due to their maturity and tenacity.

Dr. Aaliyawani Sinin, who received her PhD scroll in the ceremony shared that she is a proud UPM alumna Class of 2022. Aaliyawani expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve her *alma mater* that has shaped her to where she is now.

She would recount her student years in UPMKB as challenging and exhilarating.

"I am honoured to have served my *alma mater* in the spirit of giving back to the university." "It is a tremendous honour to be in the position that I am in," she stated.

She is currently serving in UPMKB as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities, Management and



**Dr. Aaliyawani Sinin, a proud mother of three after she received her PhD scroll**

Science. She avidly followed the accomplishments of her students, even keeping in touch with some of them long after they had graduated.

Ms. Jamie Lazaroo, a recent UPM alumna Class of 2022 who was awarded the Best Student (Diploma) Award in the convocation ceremony said she wants to give back to the society by holding the UPM motto close to her heart - With Knowledge, We Serve".

Because she is so driven to succeed, she has found her time at UPMKB to be rather stress-free. "It's okay if you don't like what you're going through. Never dwell on the negative; instead, focus on the positive", she added.

Everyone who has supported the students through the years deserves credit for their success, not just the students themselves. It takes less than a minute to receive the scroll, but the memory of it will last a lifetime.

As UPM alumna class of 2015 and 2018 myself, I believe that reconnecting with alumni is not just about staying in touch with one another. It means more than that. It means to be able to give back to the university in any way I could.

Dr. Keeren Sundara Rajoo, who served as the mace bearer during the convocation event, expressed pride in being a part of the important event and witnessing first-hand the excitement of the Alumni Class of 2022 receiving their scroll.

"I am really proud of our Class of 2022, and I cannot wait to see them soar in their achievements," remarked the alumna of Class 2012.

The mace represents the University's governing authority and is only present when the Chancellor is present. It denotes that the proceedings have received official sanction.

As for the current first-year Pre-Diploma student, Thadeus Chew, he is eager to receive his graduation scroll in another two years. He hopes that he could graduate on time and make his parents proud.

"I am grateful to my dedicated lecturers who have been giving their all to deliver," said the Sibuborn student whose parents were also UPM Alumni.

As an educator, I still stand by the notion that higher education institutions is there to produce well-rounded graduates who are prepared to enter the workforce.



**Jaime Lazaroo of the Agricultural Engineering Diploma programme received her Best Student Award (Diploma)**

**From Alumni to Alma Mater**

Over the years, I have seen UPM Alumni Relations Centre and UPM Alumni Association have been active in organising activities to bring together alumni from all around the nation via various programmes. I think many alumni have been inspired by their efforts to contribute to the University in whichever way they see suitable.

In conjunction with the Convocation Ceremony, the UPM Alumni Relations Centre organised the UPM Borneo Chapter Alumni Reception Ceremony. The alumni homecoming luncheon saw approximately 100 guests including UPMKB alumni, staff, students, and guests converging at the Dewan Sidang of UPMKB.

With the tagline 'From Alumni to UPM', the establishment of the UPM Alumni Borneo Chapter has clearly served as a bridge to connect with alumni that have graduated from UPMKB.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu welcomed the initiative by the UPM Alumni Relations Centre to establish a Borneo Chapter to reconnect UPM alumni.

"I am touched to witness our alumni and other recent graduates gathered in this luncheon. Your presence signifies the continuous growth of our alumni network, and I hope you will take the helm to be UPM ambassadors. I also encourage alumni to give back to the UPM echoing the tagline 'From Alumni to UPM'," he said.

"Our growing alumni network has continued to bring value to UPM brand and to our current students with their interactions and support. I believe that the calibre of our alumni could help make UPMKB the amazing place that it is," he added.

In the ceremony, the UPM Borneo Chapter Alumni President presented a financial contribution to the Head of Student Affairs, Dr Kamil Bin Latif, to be used for future students' activities.

The plan to establish a veterinary-based faculty is another good news for us in UPMKB as we will be expecting modern facilities and influx of students. Added on with the gracious support by the Sarawak state government, we will be expecting millions in funds for research activities. Should it become a reality, not only UPMKB will be recognised in the region, but it will also be a major contributor to achieving our aspirations.

I have always been passionate to serve UPM as it gives me the satisfaction to be part of a responsible alumni. I am grateful to the UPM Alumni Relations Centre, which has always been diligent in creating this wonderful path for me to give back.

For me, I wish UPM Class of 2022 will be the ones shaping our world by becoming great leaders for the country.

To quote Nelson Mandela on a meaningful life: "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

I am also looking forward to being part of the convocation held in UPMKB; should it be an annual event and would be there to celebrate with our new graduating UPM Alumni.



**UPM Alumni Borneo Chapter reception session in Dewan Sidang, UPMKB**

Contributions

# *Yayasan Pak Rashid Scholarship*



Promoting Education  
*for* Brighter Future

Writer: Siti Nur'Ain Feisal (Alumni Class 2015)  
Alumni Relations Centre

*This* article is dedicated to the recipients of Yayasan Pak Rashid Scholarship. I have interviewed four (4) recipients of YPR Scholarship to share their pre and post-interview experience, opinions on their obligation towards sponsors and a moment of persuasion to bring alumni contribute back to *alma mater*.

**1** Aini Nazihah Hasin@Hassan (Alumni Class 2020)  
Bachelor of Science in Physics with Honours  
Faculty of Science  
Winner of Chancellor's Gold Medal 2020  
Winner of YPR Scholarship 2016/2017 Session







All recipients are responsible to uphold the sponsors' reputation by performing well in studies, being active in students' activities, and avoiding in any criminal activities.

As alumni, we should give back to the *alma mater* by contributing ideas and money, and networking with students. For instance, we can support the students' activities through participation, sponsorship and coaching.

I prepared by doing research, practising with my friends, and asking for my family's blessing. During the interview, the panel asked me about Pak Rashid, my school activities, why I chose physics, and how it can be applied to agriculture. Alhamdulillah, it went well.

It was an eye-opening experience as it was my very first interview in life. I learned to always be ready and confident for future interviews. A few weeks after, I received a phone call from Alumni Centre UPM (ACUPM) that I had won the scholarship.



I was over the moon and immediately called my parents to inform them. It was the happiest day of my life.

Winning the Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) scholarship helped me a lot in settling the fees and purchasing study materials, thus I could focus on my studies. Daily, I used the money wisely to buy necessities to survive university life.

I am very grateful for this scholarship and the motivation shown by the staff of the Alumni Centre. I was committed to challenge myself by getting out of my comfort zone and finally became the first YPR recipient who won the Chancellor's Gold Medal. It was the best gift that I could give to them.



Winning the Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) scholarship helped me a lot in settling the fees and purchasing study materials, thus I could focus on my studies.



**2** Muhamad Rizman Mohd Fadzli (Alumni Class 2021)  
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with Honours  
Faculty of Engineering  
Winner of YPR Scholarship 2017/2018 Session



The experience during the interview session with Members of Trustees of Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) was unforgettable. This interview was not the same as the other scholarship interview as the panel asked an out of the box question, "If I had been selected to be the recipient of this scholarship, what can you offer to agriculture." It was a common question but very challenging because it evaluated the ability and specificity of the ideas being pitched. The interview went well and I got home feeling content and satisfied that I completed my task as one of the Yayasan Pak Rashid Scholarship prospective recipients.

As one of the recipients of Yayasan Pak Rashid scholarship, it was undeniably that this scholarship has been very helpful to me throughout my studies at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and it was my major financial support. This scholarship helped me ease my family's burden to pay my tuition fees for eight semesters at UPM.

As one of the YPR scholarship recipients and to the prospective recipients must sustain good performance as it will affect YPR and Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) reputations. Recipients also must uphold agriculture as one of the major fields in the country. Upon graduating and entering the working world, recipients need to display excellent work quality in order to capture influential figures' attention, thus making YPR proud for having chosen them as recipients and alumni. To inculcate the giving back culture, students must always be humble and retrace from where they start their journey towards excellence.

On this occasion, I would like to deeply thank Yayasan Pak Rashid and Alumni Relations Centre UPM for this precious opportunity. My expectation is YPR and ARCUPM will always be at their greatest reputation.



**3** Nur Syahirah Adenan (Alumni Class 2021)  
Bachelor of Science Environmental and Occupational Health  
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Winner of YPR Scholarship 2017/2018 Session

When I received news about the interview session, I felt very nervous as it was my first interview. Alhamdulillah everything went smooth and when I found out that I passed the interview, I was overwhelmed with joy. I could not believe that I passed the interview and will get the scholarship that will ease my degree's journey.

As a scholarship recipient, I felt like this scholarship really helped me to focus more on my study as I do not have to worry about tuition fees and my pocket money as the scholarship has provided it sufficiently.

Furthermore, as both of my parents had passed away before I entered my degree and this scholarship eased my journey in every way as I did not have any other source of income.

Since I am a scholarship recipient, I realised that I have a responsibility to take good care of myself and my sponsor's reputation. Due to that, I try to maintain my CGPA above 3.00 and prevent myself from joining any activities that will dishonour myself and my sponsor.

For Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) students, study well and contribute back to UPM once you have a successful life as it will benefit the future students and may the good deed be prolonged and long lasting in the future.



On this occasion, I would like to thank my scholarship sponsor, Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) for giving me a great scholarship that became a big help in my degree's journey.

## Contributions



### 4 Muhammad Naqib Huzil (Alumni Class 2022) Doctor of Medicine Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Winner of YPR Scholarship 2016/2017 Session

I still vividly remember my interview session with the board members of Yayasan Pak Rashid back in 2016 when I was in my first semester enrolling in medical school. As you might guess, learning medicine is financially challenging. The idea of a scholarship to support myself back in medical school really made me eager to compete for the prestigious scholarship.

The interview was really eye-opening and made me think that I am actually a unit of global citizen, not a mere John Doe. Weeks went by and later I was informed that I was accepted for the scholarship. I was honoured and delighted that I managed to become an inch closer to my *alma mater* through Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM).

I was fortunate that my study fee was supported by the YPR. I managed to sustain myself with food, books, and medical paraphernalia. The best thing of all, I did not heavily rely on my family to support my study.

As a Yayasan Pak Rashid scholar, the thing that I prioritize the most in order to maintain the institution's reputation is a good presentation. In simple words, I should present myself with the spirit of 'Berilmu Berbakti' and cultivate the UPM work spirit in clinical or non-clinical works. We are also obligated to project ourselves to the advancement of our own fields and keep soaring upwards.



In simple words, I should present myself with the spirit of 'Berilmu Berbakti' and cultivate the UPM work spirit in clinical or non-clinical works.

The act of giving back to the university should be our culture because we had ourselves being moulded here. Contributions are not limited to money affairs as we were all coming from different sectors. The university also needs services, volunteering and ideas to propel. This is where we can get involved. I would like to express my gratitude to Yayasan Pak Rashid and Alumni Relations Centre (ARCUPM) for giving me the opportunity to pursue my study with minimal hurdles. Thank you for all the support that enabled me to pursue my ambition. Maybe on one fine day, I can be part of UPM to give more to the university.



**Y**ayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) was officially launched in 17 November 2000.

The foundation inspired by Pak Rashid who was an excellent teacher/lecturer.

Alumni Relation Centre has dedicatedly become the YPR secretariat that managed YPR programmes and activity including scholarship arrangements.

Yayasan Pak Rashid Scholarship began its assistance in the 2008/2009 session and is offered to first-year students in agriculture and other programmes at the bachelor levels at Universiti Putra Malaysia. Priority is given to those who have not received any scholarship or financial assistance from other entities. Students who pass the interview and win the scholarship will receive RM7,500.00 annually. To date, until the 2018/2019 session, a total of 25 students have won Yayasan Pak Rashid Scholarship and completed their studies with flying colours. Some of the recipients received the university's awards during the convocation ceremony such as the Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Putra Agribio Medal.

# Organic Farming using Bokashi Method

Writer: Tajuddin Ismail (Alumni Class 1971)

## Introduction

Farmers and plantation owners are currently facing a number of serious challenges especially the high price of agriculture inputs namely inorganic fertilisers and pesticides. Other challenges are acute shortages of agriculture inputs and high cost of labour. While the cost of inputs have increased, the farm-gate price of most agricultural produce is low.

In this article, I wish to share my experience on the production and use of organic fertilisers to mitigate the high price of fertilisers. Through this approach, farmers can be freed from over-dependence on inorganic fertilisers in crop maintenance. It is hoped that this article will provide an opportunity for farmers to choose better, practical, cheaper and sustainable agriculture practices. By implementing the proposed approach, it is hoped that our farmers will begin the important journey towards implementing a regenerative farming system which will benefit them, their families, the society as well as the environment.

## Price of Fertilisers

Price of fertilisers has escalated to a very high and unaffordable level. Farmers are facing difficulty to continue providing adequate fertilisers to their crops to sustain optimum growth and yield. Without adequate fertilization, crop's growth and yield will be adversely affected and consequently farmer's income will be reduced and may even suffer losses.

In 2021, Malaysia imported RM6 billion worth of fertilisers. The local price of the imported inorganic fertilisers pre and post COVID-19 period have increased between 56 and 72%. The price of locally produced organic fertilisers pre- and post COVID-19 period have increased between 19 and 22% (Table 1). If farmers were to continue using these fertilisers, the cost of production will be significantly increased and their profit margins will be minimal.

**Table 1. Increase in fertiliser price pre- and post-COVID-19 period**

Brand/Type	Nutrient Content	Weight (kg/bag)	Price		
			Pre-Covid (RM/bag)	Post-Covid (RM/bag)	% Increase
Yara	16:16:16	50	180	280	56
Behn Mayer	15:15:15	50	160	275	72
Behn Mayer	12:12:17:2	50	170	270	59
Dolomite	Ca & Mg	50	18	22	22
Ajimino	Organic	25	75	90	20
Humiblend	Organic	25	80	95	19

## Proposed Solution

The proposed solution is not a "Rocket Science" technology. The approach is just a typical "Farm Management" approach to solve a typical problem faced by farmers. The solution is to use organic compost and liquid organic fertilisers in combination with inorganic or synthetic fertilisers at a reduced rate. To save cost of production of certain crops, in the future we may totally omit inorganic fertilisers application. However, a comprehensive research/study has to be conducted to determine the sustainability of the agronomic practice under tropical environments.

From past experience, the most practical and inexpensive implementation of using organic fertiliser is for farmers to self-produce the organic fertilisers they intend to use. Organic fertilisers can be produced using locally available materials, especially farm by-products. By taking this step, the amount of inorganic or synthetic fertiliser requirement can be reduced and thereby, the total cost of applying fertilisers will also be reduced.

Based on field experience, two types of organic fertilisers are suitable to be used under Malaysian cropping systems i.e. Bokashi organic compost and liquid organic fertiliser.

### a. Bokashi Compost Fertiliser

Bokashi is a Japanese word which means "fading away". It is a composting method developed by Dr. Teruo Higa in the early 1980's. Bokashi is produced by an anaerobic method which takes advantage of certain strains of bacteria that do not need oxygen in order to thrive, as opposed to other forms of composting, which are aerobic and require open air to break down materials. The process is much faster, takes 7 to 10 days with the aid of EM (effective micro-organisms). With the addition

of paddy husk charcoal, the compost has biochar properties, almost similar to Terra Preta of the Amazon.

The advantages of Bokashi compost are as follows:

- i. No turning of the compost heap is required during the production process.
- ii. Requires less space.
- iii. Gives less or no odor.
- iv. Allows to compost dairy and meat products.
- v. House for microbes.
- vi. Increase cation exchange capacity (CEC) and water holding capacity (WHC) of soil.
- vii. Holds nutrients and releases the nutrients slowly giving a slow-release effect.

The basic composition in making Bokashi compost is as follows:

- i. 40 to 60% cow/goat/chicken manure.
- ii. 10 to 30% paddy husk charcoal.
- iii. 10 to 30% other plant-based materials - cut grass, oil palm leaves, corn stalks, pineapple leaves, dry POME, etc.
- iv. EM4 + brown sugar or molasses or normal sugar.

In a large field trial of 70 ha rubber plantation at Renggang, Pulau Belitung, Indonesia, Bokashi was applied in soil conservation pits measuring 1.5m long x 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep, dug alternately in the inter-rows of rubber on a chess board arrangement. Inorganic fertiliser at 50% the normal rate was applied in the conservation pits.

The benefits of using the soil conservation pits are as follows:

- The Bokashi compost applied in the conservation pits encourages and sustains growth of active feeder roots, earthworms and other beneficial creatures in the pits.
- The microbes, earthworms and other creatures in the pits improve the physical, biological and nutritional status of the soil.
- Presence of massive network of active feeder roots all year round.
- A place to collect and store rainwater.
- The stored water is always available for the roots to absorb.
- A "secured" place for fertilisers to be applied, minimal loss of fertilisers applied.
- The fertilisers can be efficiently absorbed by the active feeder roots.
- Organic matter content in the pits is always high.
- Continuous presence of active and effective flora and fauna in the pits.
- The pits are where the fertilisers are applied - fertiliser placement is definite and easy to be supervised if fertiliser application is carried out by workers.
- More efficient uptake of nutrients - more nutrients absorbed and utilized by the rubber trees.
- Minimize the loss of nutrients, thus the possibility of reducing fertiliser rates to be applied.
- Reduce the potential of fertilisers from polluting the environment.
- Bokashi compost applied in the pits encouraged growth of active feeder roots, earthworms and other creatures in the MPCP all year round.

## Contributions

Since the cost of constructing the conservation pits is quite high, the present recommendation is to construct the conservation beds measuring 1.5m x 1.5m using bamboo or wood.

Details of the treatments and rubber yield obtained from the field trial at Pulau Belitung are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2. Fertiliser Application and Yield of Rubber under Soil Conservation Pit System - 2014-2021**

Year	Bokashi Compost (kg/tree/year)	Inorganic Fertiliser (g/tree/year)	Canopy Condition	Rubber Yield (kg/ha/year)
2014	Nil	Urea 400	Normal	1,280
		TSP 300		
		KCl 200		
		Kieserite 100		
		Dolomite 500		
2015	.	Urea 400	Normal	1,560
		TSP 300		
		KCl 200		
		Kiesrite 100		
		Dolomite 500		
2016	5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Normal	2,005
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		
2017	5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Normal	2,955
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		
2018	5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Poor canopy due to Pestalotiopsis disease attack	2,870
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		
2019	5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Poor canopy due to Pestalotiopsis disease attack	2,800
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		
2020	2.5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Poor canopy due to Pestalotiopsis disease attack	2,850
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		
2021	2.5	NPK 16:16:16 250	Poor canopy due to Pestalotiopsis disease attack	2,720
		KCl 100		
		Dolomite 250		

The yield of rubber increased significantly after application of Bokashi in 2015, from 1.5 tons/ha/year to above 2.0 tons/ha/year even with the reduction of inorganic fertilisers applied. Rubber production was maintained at high levels even when the canopy was poor due to *Pestalotiopsis* attack from 2018 to 2021. Tapping panel dryness and white root disease incidences were much below average at 3% and 1% respectively. The application of Bokashi combined with low level of inorganic fertilisers thus resulting in better rubber performance especially yield.

Trials on application of Bokashi with reduced levels of inorganic fertilisers were also carried out with other crops i.e. tapioca, maize, pepper and watermelons. Yield of crops increased by 40% to 200%.

In the trials on the crops mentioned above, the cost of fertilization was reduced by around 40-60%. The reduction in the cost of fertilization was achieved by reducing the amount of inorganic fertiliser applied and the Bokashi compost was self-produced by the farmers using locally available raw materials or purchased locally at low prices at below RM0.70/kg.

Bokashi compost is best used as base fertiliser when inorganic fertiliser is used. When Bokashi is used as a base fertiliser, the above experience proved that the application of inorganic fertiliser can be reduced by 50% or more without sacrificing yield.

### b. Liquid Organic Fertilisers

To complement the Bokashi compost, liquid organic fertilisers can be made by farmers to meet the full nutrient requirement of the crops. Liquid organic fertilisers can also be self-made using raw materials such as agriculture wastes found around their farms. The production of liquid organic fertiliser is quite simple at a very low cost.



Examples of raw material which can be used to produce liquid organic fertilisers are fresh leguminous leaves, grasses, fruit peels, rotten fruits, egg shells, banana stems, banana corms, coconut husk, etc. These materials should be chopped into small pieces and some rock salt and leaf moulds are also added. They are then mixed together with non-chlorinated water and allowed to ferment for 3 to 4 weeks before ready for application. The resulting liquid organic fertiliser produced is diluted 30 to 50 times with non-chlorinated water before application to the soil medium at the base of the plants.

### **Wrong Perception on Organic Fertilisers**

Most farmers do not have the confidence with organic fertilisers due to their low NPK contents. The low nutrient content of the organic fertilisers is compensated by its biological component whereby the microbes consume the organic matter in the soil releasing nutrients which are normally not available to the roots of plants. The Bokashi compost also improves the soil structure and water holding capacity of the soil. If the organic fertiliser applied is not able to supply sufficient nutrients to the crops, inorganic fertiliser can be added.

Most people are not comfortable handling raw animal manure and liquid organic fertilisers due to the dirty nature and the obnoxious odour of the materials. Organic compost once matured does not have any bad smell and the bad odour of liquid organic fertiliser can be removed by placing some charcoal or biochar into the fermented liquid.

### **What Needs to be Done?**

We need to educate our farmers and plantation owners on the benefits and importance of using organic fertilisers on a



long term basis and that the benefits are sustainable. Several demonstration plots should be set up all over the country for farmers to visit, observe and learn. We must encourage farmers to produce their own Bokashi and liquid organic fertilisers utilizing the raw materials available from their own farms and surroundings so that the cost of using the organic fertilisers is minimized. All farmers, staff of plantations and the extension workers need to be trained.

The adoption of organic fertilisers should be in stages over a period of 2 to 3 years - e.g. 1st year 25% of land area, 50% in 2nd year and 100% in 3rd year. At the initial stage, the use of inorganic fertilisers can be reduced by around 50%. Subsequently, with the use of liquid organic fertiliser in addition to the use of Bokashi, the use of inorganic fertiliser can be minimized.

Research on the most efficient and cheapest production methods should be carried out by local research institutions and universities. Research on the effect of application of organic

fertilisers (solid and liquid forms) on growth and productivity of all crops grown in the country should be conducted under all cropping systems including fertigation and drip irrigation techniques. The research should cover all aspects i.e. plants, soils, microbes as well as nutritional values (nutrient density) of the produce. (Appendixes 1,2,3).

### **Summary**

Bokashi compost fertiliser application on rubber and other crops was found to be very effective in promoting better growth and higher yield of crops. It is easy to produce Bokashi compost and liquid organic fertilisers and when the fertilisers are self-produced using locally available materials, the cost is low.

Use of Bokashi compost and liquid organic fertilisers can reduce the need for inorganic or synthetic fertilisers and thus mitigate the high cost of inorganic or synthetic fertilisers. The production and use of Bokashi compost and liquid organic fertilisers should be promoted in Malaysia.

# Contributions

## STEP 1

### APPENDIX 1 - Production of Bokashi compost from goat manure and paddy husk charcoal



1 Mixing goat dung and paddy husk charcoal



2 Spraying EM solution on mixture of goat dung and paddy husk charcoal



3 Compost heap covered with plastic for 3 days



4 Exposing the compost heap for 4 days



5 Matured Bokashi compost



6 Bokashi compost ready for field application

## STEP 2

### APPENDIX 2 - Application of Bokashi compost in conservation pits



1 Application of Bokashi in conservation pit



2 Improved growth of rubber trees after Bokashi application



3 Abundant active feeder roots in the conservation pit



4 Presence of earthworms



6 Higher yield in spite of reduced inorganic fertiliser application



5 Healthy rubber trees after Bokashi application

### STEP 3

#### APPENDIX 3 - Production of liquid organic fertilisers



1

Moringa leaves high in nitrogen



2

Filling the drum with mixture of fresh leguminous leaves and grasses



3

Banana stems and corms



4

Chopping the banana stems



5

Banana corm



6

Chopped banana corm and stems placed in a drum



7

Fresh leguminous leaves and grasses ready for fermentation



8

Fruit peels and rotten fruits ready for fermentation



9

Addition of leaf moulds to hasten fermentation



10

Prepared materials ready for fermentation



11

Liquid organic fertilisers undergoing fermentation



12

Liquid organic fertilisers ready for application

## Contributions

# Roles of PAUPM in Giving Back to *Alma Mater*

Writer: Rohani Md Yon (Alumni Class 1972)  
UPM Alumni Association

## PAUPM Objectives

The UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) Annual General Meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2022. The keynote address was given by our patron, YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, Dato' Menteri Besar Selangor. During the speech he stressed the importance of alumni giving back to *alma mater* through PAUPM which has been recognised as an active public higher educational institutions alumni association in Malaysia.

- a. Develops a mutual relationship with all members with the main objective of upgrading their intellectual and academic abilities.
- b. Helps UPM to achieve its objectives to be an excellent university in education, research and services, both at national and international levels.
- c. Contributes to development of society and the nation through the knowledgeable alumni members.
- d. Active involvement in sports, recreation and welfare activities of members.





Roles of PAUPM in Giving Back to *Alma Mater*

Through these four main objectives, the members of PAUPM (which was formed on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1971) have contributed immensely towards the development of the country for 51 years since the establishment of the alumni association in 1971 in Serdang. Times may have changed, the generation in Serdang changed but the contributions of the Serdang alumni still hold to: "With Knowledge We Serve".

**ALUMNI UPM**

**PAUPM Committee Member 2021-2023 Session**

<b>HJ. ZAINAL ABIDIN YAHYA</b> Bendahara	<b>YH. DATO' SYED ABO RAHMAN ABD RASHID</b> Timbalan Presiden	<b>YBHG. DATO' RAIHAN SHARIF</b> Presiden	<b>DR. IBRAHIM MOHAMED</b> Setiausaha Agung	<b>CIK NORFADLIZA MINHAT</b> Pen. Setiausaha						
<b>EN. MOHD ADIR MOHD KHALID</b> (AJK)	<b>EN. MOHD NAZRI MOH</b> (AJK)	<b>EN. ALIMAN ALI</b> (AJK)	<b>EN. FAHMI AZAR MISTAR</b> (AJK)	<b>DR. SHATESH KUMAR SANGAR</b> (AJK)	<b>EN. AHMAD QAORI BASRI</b> (AJK)	<b>HON. BOKANI MD YON</b> (AJK)	<b>EN. SHAJIN COM YUD CHUNG</b> (AJK)	<b>IR. S. KUMAR S. SUBRAMANIAM</b> (AJK)	<b>LAR. KHALIFAH JAMALUDDIN</b> (AJK)	<b>PROF. MADYA DR. NURUL HAYAH KHAIRUDDIN</b> (AJK)

## Involvement of Young Graduates

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of young graduates to be involved in the many alumni activities organised by PAUPM with their new ideas and suggestions. Sadly, currently many alumni members are not active. Out of 110,786 only 16,347 (14.7%) can be contacted and only about 5,000 regularly visited PAUPM portal.

He hoped more alumni members can contribute, particularly in UPM agenda of upgrading agriculture in line with its objectives. All alumni members are encouraged to support this agenda.





## PAUPM Building

It is hoped that PAUPM will become the best university alumni association in the region in line with UPM prestigious status both at local and international levels. Thus, it is really appropriate that PAUPM has its own building which will become the centre for alumni activities. The setting up of the alumni building is greatly supported by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, UPM Chancellor and he continuously monitored the efforts to set up this building. In line with this, it was suggested that all alumni members contributed RM10.00 per month for funding the alumni building. He also took the opportunity to launch the fund collection for the alumni building.

## Endowment Fund Programme

Another novel idea which alumni members can contribute back to the *alma mater* is by supporting the endowment fund programme. Through this programme PAUPM actively collect funds which can be used to support poor students as well as for implementation of various university activities. The tradition of setting up the endowment fund in the universities is still new in Malaysia since the establishment of the public universities is always funded by the government. Currently, there is a need to set up the endowment fund because now the country is faced with uncertainties in economy due to the post-pandemic crisis which required the involvement of everyone to help in implementation of the activities in the university.

ALUMNI UPM

WELCOME TO PAUPM PORTAL

alumniuom@gmail.com Persatuan Alumni UPM-PAUPM persatuanalumniupm

93714	93289	3690	93%
Total Database	Life Members	Registered on Portal	Database Successfully Built

## International Alumni Chapter

**It is important that UPM expanded the International Alumni UPM Chapter (IAUPM) since many international students are enrolled in UPM.**

It is important that UPM expanded the International Alumni UPM Chapter (IAUPM) since many international students are enrolled in UPM. To strengthen IAUPM, efforts are in the way to spread the wing to more countries where UPM alumni reside. This is important because one of the criteria evaluated by the Malaysia QS University Ranking is the university's involvement at the international level. Recently UPM was ranked 123<sup>rd</sup> at the international level and second in Malaysia. The enrolment of international students in UPM as of December 2021 was 5,771. These international graduates are UPM ambassadors to his or her own country.







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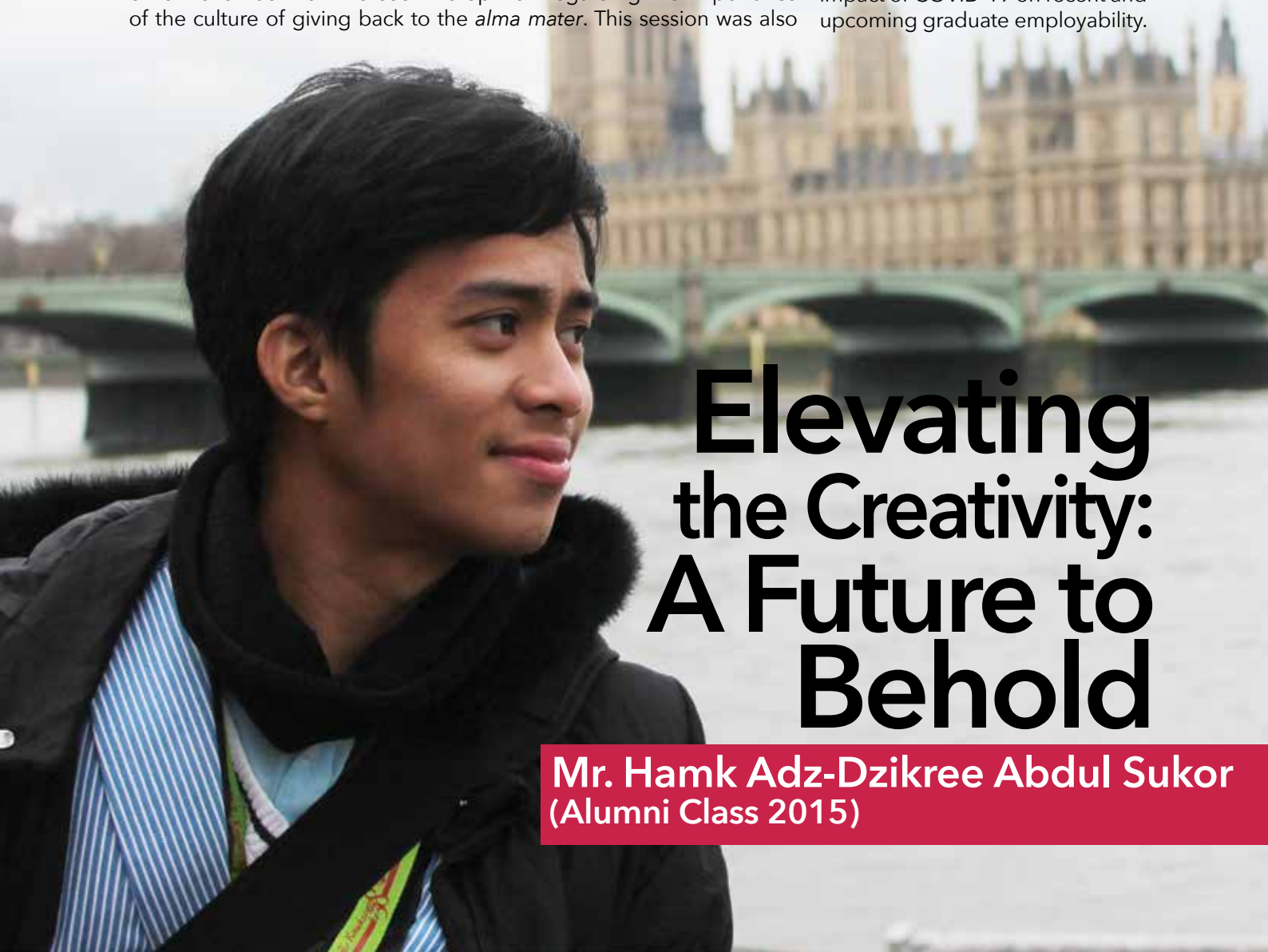
\*One of the income generation lead by PAUPM

# Evolving Through Experience, Turning Vision into Reality

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Mursyid Arshad  
(Alumni Class 2008, 2010, 2016)  
Faculty of Educational Studies, UPM

The evolution of technology has and continuously provides us with rich and colourful opportunities. The art of blending two heterogeneous fields has been indeed reflected and cohesively harnessed by Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree Abdul Sukor, a holder of Bachelor of Human Ecology and an Alumni of Class 2015. In conjunction with this edition of Serdang Sun, a representative of its editorial board, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Mursyid Arshad had an interview session with Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree on 8 November 2022 to seek his opinion regarding the importance of the culture of giving back to the *alma mater*. This session was also

attended by Alumni Relation Centre (ARCUPM) staff Mrs. Siti Nur'Ain Feisal. The talk also touched on his views regarding UPM current achievements and future perspectives for student preparation especially on the impact of COVID-19 on recent and upcoming graduate employability.



## Elevating the Creativity: A Future to Behold

Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree Abdul Sukor  
(Alumni Class 2015)





His family has been a true inspiration, especially his late father, Mr. Abdul Sukor and a pillar of strength for him. His academic journey and exposure at UPM was constantly enriched with his involvement in marketing strategy in training and consultancy services.

“During my 1<sup>st</sup> year in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), I aimed to be someone who actively participated in residential college activities, in 2<sup>nd</sup> year I will be someone at the faculty level, for 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the university level and my final year at international level. I began my adventure in this unique specialisation. I had the pleasure to meet well-known professionals and practitioners from the industries. This university gave me a wide range of opportunities to develop my knowledge, skills and the right attitude. It was during these times that I improved my soft skills and learned how to live in a multicultural environment - which is an added advantage in later years. With my job, I met a lot of interesting people in industry and it’s a great networking”.



Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree had the opportunity to pursue a career as a marketing officer in training and consultancy services. As a marketing officer, he successfully positioned his company as an industry leader and acquired market dominance in providing training and consultancy services in Malaysia. He received the faculty’s award ‘Hadiah Kepimpinan Usaha Jana’ sponsored by Usaha Jana Sdn. Bhd in 2015. As an alumnus of Universiti Putra Malaysia, he opined that for the university to meet the Malaysian aspiration, the university must establish the leadership, governance and contributes to expanding and sustaining the body of knowledge through collaborating with students, alumni, scholars, practitioners, communities, industries and government agencies. The future success of UPM will depend on the stakeholders and through a continued capability to invest and make the most of the people.



“My responsibility in marketing laid the foundation for everything that

## Campus Portraits



and mentoring them to do well will bring them to greater height”.

Based on his past experience as President of Al-Biruni Club, Faculty of Human Ecology, as a leader one has to have the power to imagine and to visualize. Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree said “I want to let everybody know that it doesn’t matter what your background is. As long as you do your best, you can achieve great things and become an inspiration to others”. He observed that constantly changing expectations of life will provide students with different experiences of life. “Having academic competency without a distinct character will place them in the sea of the mediocrity. Thus, they need to be creative, vibrant, independent, street smart and to be able to make a significant difference in not only their lives but also for those around them”.



happened next in my career. But I almost didn’t get the job. It is essential to grab at an opportunity when you see it, especially if it is unexpected. It was a vision I always had at the back of my mind – I’m going to find a way to bring the new innovation in training and consultation services to more people by offering an ideal-cost and user-friendly approaches. Using these strategies, I have been able to create early lesson on what did not exist before, and as long as I am clear about my aim, share my passion and bring others especially my colleagues along with me.”

Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree said the culture of giving back to their *alma mater* must be cultivated among all former students, making alumni associations very important for the school and the community as a whole. “UPM alumni are all over the world, involved in a wide range of expertise and skills. Some are involved in their own businesses, some are experts in their field and some are even leaders. Everybody plays an integral part in building

this nation. The alumni association gives us the opportunity for networking”.

When asked for good advice for future students, he said that having the passion inside of you which ignites your interest for learning and discovering knowledge will certainly bring positive energy and change the way you look at things and the work that you do. UPM is the place that allows you to try new things, to succeed or fail and definitely help in one’s success, but you also need to be proactive, ask questions, be critical and take advantage of all that UPM has to offer.

“Managing a profit organization is about managing the people and leadership. It shows the quality of the individual and how we manage people around you. A leader always looks only at the grass, sometime not even the fruits up on the trees, but a great leader will look at the whole forest. Make people’s dream into reality and do the impossible. My basic philosophy is always inspiring and nurturing people around me

Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree emphasised that as a university student, one must not restrict oneself simply to attending classes. He said, this is the period in life that helps to equip us with the relevant soft and communication skills which will enhance our personality once we enter the workforce, more so during this post COVID-19 pandemic - resilience, create opportunities and thinking out of the box.

Furthermore, Mr. Hamk Adz-Dzikree added that UPM students need to prepare for the unexpected with contingency plans- the most unexpected moment may be the one that matters most. “Know your goal and pursue it relentlessly and do not be afraid to fail. No one gets everything right the first time around because you will stumble and fall along the way. People underestimate the value of failure. But every time that happens, as a student, you get better, smarter and those lessons will help you get where you want to be eventually. The most significant impact during my work is an opportunity to meet important people. I need to be ready physically and mentally”.

# Bringing Excitement: Narrating Broadcasting for the World

**Paruvintharaj Shanmugam**  
(Alumni Class 2020)



Paruvintharaj Shanmugam, 26 years old, hailed from Kulim, Kedah is a remarkable person in national broadcasting, and he is so passionate in culture and sports since he was young. He started his leadership role at UPM as President of Putra Kalakshetra (Indian Classical Dance Club) in two consecutive years from 2017 to 2019 and actively participated in Hindu Society Club. After finishing secondary school, he pursued Cambridge A Level at Taylor's College as a receiver of Public Services Department Scholarship Award. Paruvintharaj graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering (with Honours) from the Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2020.

When people asked him, "What are some of your best moments at UPM? I quickly realize my best moments at UPM have undoubtedly been with my friends and UPM itself. I had international experience in Asean Youth Cultural Forum in the Philippines in 2018. The Youth Cultural Forum is an annual event that brings together youth from leading universities in the Asean region, China, Japan and Korea to share their distinct cultures and values with one another. The forum is a good way for bridging my networking because it comprises of cultural workshops, a cultural trip, as well as a space to perform unique traditional cultural performances. My time is very tight especially from 2019 until present due to my job as radio host at Minnal fm."

## Campus Portraits



**I am a proud UPM alumnus, and will continue to be an ambassador of this institution.**

Paruvintharaj said that the success he had today was due to his experience acquired in UPM. He was very happy spending his time in UPM because it taught him to be resilient in facing challenges. "As UPM alumnus, I would like to advise students to be involved in as many activities as possible in the campus. I made friends from different countries, who I am still in touch with, learned about different cultures, and accustomed myself to the vibrant and diverse atmosphere. My biggest asset from UPM is my teachers. I found a father figure in one of them, whose blessing has been paramount and is the best part of my student days. It is through such exposures that we are able to have the self-confidence to resolve problems that could guide us in our future career path," he added.

For the moment, Paruvintharaj intends to gain as much experience as possible in broadcasting and commentating works as a radio host and hopes to be one of the leading radio hosts of the nation one day. When asked for good advice for future students, he said that the passion inside you which ignites your interest in learning and discovering knowledge will certainly bring positive energy and change the way you look at things and the work that you do. Paruvintharaj said "My biggest achievement of this journey was crossing path with all my lecturers. I am thankful to everyone who made my UPM life unforgettable. I am a proud UPM alumnus, and will continue to be an ambassador of this institution. I believe that every journey must come to an end, but we must make sure we leave a legacy behind".

As a radio host, he is always sending messages to empower young people for sustainable development. He is also passionate about building platforms for different stakeholders to come together and find innovative solutions to the world's pressing problems. "I exercised this passion during my student days at UPM, which ultimately led me to be recognized with the Putra Icon Award (Cultural Leadership) for my all-rounded performance".





UPM

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UBLI EMAS

UPM 1971-2021

# BIASISWA ALUMNI



YAYASAN PAK RASHID

**BIASISWA  
YAYASAN PAK RASHID**



**BIASISWA  
SOH KIM MEE**

Biasiswa Yayasan Said

CLA EMPIRE



**BIASISWA  
AMCO NIAGA**



**BIASISWA  
CHAPTER CYPERUS 92'**



**BIASISWA  
FELCRA**



**BIASISWA  
OMBAK**

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CUCKOO**

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BIASISWA ALUMNI KOLEJ TIGA

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BAKTIGA**



**BIASISWA  
MENTERI BESAR  
SELANGOR**



**BIASISWA  
TMJ**



**BIASISWA  
PERTUBUHAN KEBAJIKAN  
SALAK**

**NUAIM**  
CORPORATION

**BIASISWA  
NUAIM CORP**



**BIASISWA  
NORZACK**

**2 GENERASI**

**BIASISWA  
2 GENERASI**



**BIASISWA  
QKB-MPP 04**

**BIASISWA SETERUSNYA?  
SILA HUBUNGI KAMI UNTUK TURUT SAMA  
MENJADI PENYUMBANG BIASISWA**



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untuk maklumat  
lanjut**



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# Biology is the Study of Life

**Azlini Razali**  
(Alumni Class 2016)

Writer: Siti Farhana Saludin (Alumni Class 2015)  
UPM Alumni Association

Azlini Razali, the recipient of the Alumni Gold Medal during the 40th UPM Convocation Ceremony, is a biology lover. She demonstrates a strong interest in biology, prompting her to continue her studies for a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Biology. She was a former foundation student in Agriculture at UPM and continued her studies at the master's level for a Master of Science in Environmental Health.

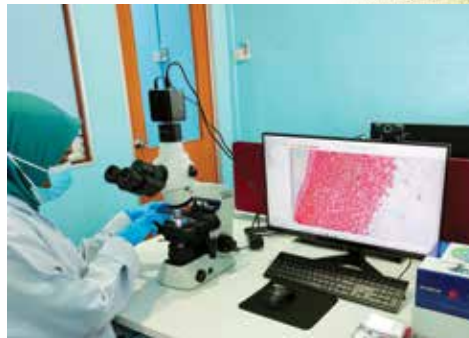
During student's life, Azlini, born on September 13<sup>th</sup> 1993 enrolled to join the Reserve Officer Training Unit (ROTU) Navy, which took six semesters to be commissioned as a Junior Sub-Lieutenant. Being in ROTU makes her learn about discipline, especially managing her time between studying and extra-curricular activities. She continues to support ROTU while also being actively involved in faculty and college activities including the Al-Biruni Social Club and the Recycle to Cycle (R2C) Programme. The reason for her joining various activities is to increase her productivity. She never leaves the opportunities but always grabs them.

Azlini cherishes the most special memories of being commissioned as a Junior Sub-Lieutenant at the 34<sup>th</sup> Reserve Officer Training Unit Commissioning Ceremony (2015). She also succeeded in receiving First Class Honours in Biology for her Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree. This demonstrates that she never abandoned her academics while being involved in a number of activities. She has demonstrated tremendous determination to be the best version of herself.



She would ensure that she never stops learning and that she never loses her thirst for knowledge. For Azlini, setting up priorities had been her norm. As a student, top of the list, was of course study, followed by activities. Throughout her time at university, she remained steadfast in her commitment to her academic pursuits, refusing to

refused to give up. Through sheer perseverance and a stroke of luck, she crossed paths with the Director of Sedingin Embun Sdn. Bhd, who saw something special in her and offered her a coveted position as Laboratory Executive. Her unwavering determination and willingness to keep pushing forward led her to this opportunity,



allow any extracurricular activities to distract her from her ultimate goal.

She approached every endeavor with a fierce determination to succeed and never allowed herself to be over shadowed by the allure of co-curricular activities. She was always concerned about time management and would never let procrastination happen in her daily life. She planned what needed to be done and completed it on time. She recognized the immense value of participating in co-curricular activities, understanding that they provide a unique opportunity to develop invaluable soft skills that cannot be acquired through traditional classroom learning. She embraced these experiences wholeheartedly, knowing that they would enrich her personal and professional development in ways that would stay with her for a lifetime.

Job hunting is a real struggle. After graduation, Azlini's career journey started as a Research Assistant at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, UPM, for almost a year. Despite facing numerous setbacks in her job search, she

which would change the course of her career forever. The company specialises in diagnostic laboratory testing, particularly but not limited to the veterinary and environmental fields. It is also the sole distributor in Malaysia for diagnostic test kits under the brand Innovative Diagnostics (IDvet) from France and GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation from Taiwan.

Azlini is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to managing stress. She is unwavering in her commitment to maintaining peak productivity and will go to great lengths to eliminate any stressors that stand in her way. Her dedication and resilience in the face of adversity serve as a testament to her unwavering drive and unwavering focus on achieving her goals. She finds that swimming and music listening enable her to decompress. She also enjoys talking about her problems with her family and friends in order to receive advice on how to resolve them and decompress.

Even though it had been some time since Azlini had her bachelor's degree, she was always eager to support UPM, where she received

her education. She felt delighted as she discussed the possibility of internship or employment opportunities for UPM students with the Director of the company. She felt a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that she had played a role in creating this potential pathway to success for her fellow UPM students.

The prospect of helping others achieve their dreams was a truly rewarding experience for her, and she looked forward to seeing the positive impact that this opportunity would have on the future careers of aspiring professionals.

Additionally, Sedingin Embun Sdn Bhd intends to collaborate with UPM researchers and students on a project in any pertinent areas, creating a mutually beneficial relationship that will foster innovation and growth for all parties involved. The last piece of advice Azlini offered was that time should be used wisely. Procrastination can be avoided with self-control. Pay attention and maintain your concentration on what you want.

# Never Stop Being Curious

Writer: Siti Farhana Saludin (Alumni Class 2015)  
UPM Alumni Association

**Lee Zhi Ling** (Alumni Class 2017)

Lee Zhi Ling, 29, grew up in Taman Tanjung Aman, Butterworth, Penang, where she was born on December 19. The unwavering love and support that defined her upbringing have inspired her to continue her academic journey at UPM with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. During her studies, she was active and energetic, participating in various activities that made her fit and full of spirit. She is one of the opportunity hunters. She never limits her student life to studies only; she grabs all the opportunities in front of her to diversify her experience as a student that might be used for working life. Zhi Ling, one of the distinguished recipients of the coveted Alumni Gold Medal, was overcome with gratitude as she received the recognition for her activities and achievements. The honor was a testament to the tireless effort and unwavering dedication that she had poured into her endeavors. Some of us

have had our habits since we were children. The same goes for Zhi Ling. She has always been really keen on sharing health knowledge with her friends and family. This is one of her big reasons for pursuing her studies in a Bachelor of Science Nutrition and Community Health. By pursuing her studies in this field, she is able to dive deep into the world of nutrition and master it.

Talking about activities during her four years of study, Zhi Ling enrolled herself in the UPM Chinese Orchestra Club with each passing day, she learned to overcome her fears and embrace the spotlight, harnessing the power of music to connect with audiences and inspire those around her. She learned more about the orchestra until, in 2015, she became one of the orchestra's conductors. This is also one of the most significant achievements that she is most proud of while studying

at UPM. Zhi Ling, in addition to the orchestra, participates in various sports, including handball and marathon running. She stressed that, "Being active will make you mind creative". Even though Zhi Ling was active in co-curricular activities, she still managed to perform well in her studies.

She added, "Study wholeheartedly when it is time to study; join the co-curricular activities when it is time to join the activities." For Zhi Ling, each day was a chance to explore new horizons, to discover new passions and unlock the full potential of her being. With a deep sense of gratitude and a boundless enthusiasm for life, she embraced each new challenge as an opportunity to grow, to learn, and to become the best version of herself. Zhi Ling expressed her joy at being able to perform with her closest friends as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. In addition, she was successful in



meeting new people from other colleges and locations. This is the most crucial period of our lives since we build our network now and keep it going until we finish our studies. Moreover, networking is crucial during professional life in order to have a reference for the areas in which you lack expertise.

“Some of the courses we take during our studies may not directly lead to employment opportunities after we complete them.” For example, after receiving her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Community, Zhi Ling worked as a sales coach as her first position. Although it is not related to the UPM classes she did, she found it to be a fascinating experience where she learned how to create sales just through phone conversations. She subsequently moved to her second career as a recipe creator for a business that sells multipurpose cookers. In this instance, she was tasked with

conceiving and preparing recipes for the multifunction cookers. Zhi Ling, who was still employed by the same company, was elevated to the position of Sales and Marketing Executive. In this capacity, she could use the experience she had obtained from her studies and earlier employment. “As we all know, sales and marketing rely on having a nationwide network so that people can be made aware of our services.”

“Stress is an inherent part of working and studying. When Zhi Ling feels stressed, she will step away from the stressful situation. She will engage in stress-relieving activities like running or walking in the park while listening to music. Additionally, Zhi Ling enjoys conversing with her friend to keep herself calm and composed under pressure. In particular, for the UPM community, Zhi Ling mentioned that she would be willing to

provide a free nutrition talk. She is also ready to help out with any UPM events. This illustrates that despite having graduated and started a new life, she will always support UPM.

Success is defined differently by each individual, claims Zhi Ling. One of Zhi Ling’s most crucial advice to today’s youth is never to stop being curious. It seems straightforward yet could actually be extremely memorable. According to her, maintaining curiosity helps you acquire new information quickly and adapt to new situations. Being curious enables you to see the world less rigidly and humbles you by making you aware of how little you actually know. In our fast-paced world, when technology is always evolving, remaining curious also aids in our advancement and growth.



## Highlights

# Highlight

## of Alumni Activities

January - December

# 2022

### UPM 44<sup>th</sup> Convocation: Alumni Graduation Package Distribution

8 - 20 January 2022 – UPM

A total of 3559 Alumni Graduation Packages have been distributed to the 2021 graduates' batch during the 44<sup>th</sup> Convocation.



### Distribution of Alumni Membership Cards in Conjunction with the 44<sup>th</sup> Universiti Putra Malaysia Convocation Ceremony

8 - 20 January 2022 – UPM

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) set up a booth in front of Central Academic Hall (DKAP) during the 44<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony to facilitate the distribution of Alumni Membership Cards. A total of 5,695 graduands received degrees and diplomas from various study programmes, including 398 Ph.D., 1,093 Master's degrees, 3,544 Bachelor's degrees, and 660 diplomas. Congratulations to all who graduated!





**PutraBiz@Alumni Buggy Develops Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA)**

**Entrepreneurial Skills**

8 - 20 January, 19 - 30 March 2022 - UPM

A buggy sponsored by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) alumni, Mohd Norashedy Ab Rashid (alumni class 1999 & 2004) to develop and cultivate students' skills of entrepreneurship especially during this trying times of pandemic COVID-19 as well as to nurture independent self character.



**UPM 50 Years Sculpture, Alumni Information System (AIS), and PutraBiz@Alumni Buggy Launching Ceremony**

14 January 2022 – Canselor Putra, UPM  
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) 50 Years sculpture was built in front of Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Cultural and Arts Centre (PKKSSAAS) Main Hall as a symbol for UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021). Alumni Information System (AIS) was developed to collect and update alumni data and profiles comprehensively and efficiently as well as a medium of information dissemination. Putrabiz@Alumni buggy was sponsored by Mohd Norashedy Ab Rashid, alumni class 1994 which is to be used by students to generate their own side income through programmes organized by Alumni Relations Centre, and to develop their entrepreneurial skills.



**MEKAR 2.0: Hamdan Cup Touch Rugby Tournament**

29 January 2022 - Rugby Field B, UPM

In conjunction with the Serdang Angels reunion, a Touch Rugby Tournament was arranged to further strengthen their bonding after years apart. During the prize-giving ceremony, YAM Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis, Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail has officiated the slogan 'Daripada Alumni Kepada UPM' and handed over a laptop to a student which is also a Serdang Angels player.





### MEKAR 4.0: Chapter Sastera dan Budaya Officially Established

22 February 2022 - Office of Vice Chancellor, UPM  
 This programme celebrated the establishment of Chapter Sastera dan Budaya which was officiated by Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) expressed its gratitude to Chapter Alumni Sastera dan Budaya for the contribution of three laptops to UPM students in need.

### MEKAR 5.0: TRACE Johor

25 – 27 February 2022 – Desaru, Johor

Discussions with alumni were held in order to empower underprivileged Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) students and alumni. UPM alumni, James Ho has generously agreed to provide laptops to student in need. Alumni Flagship was presented to provide support and relief to the unfortunate UPM alumni, whereby device aid will be given to the selected underprivileged UPM students.



### MEKAR 6.0: Kolej Kediaman Cikgu Rashid, Alumni Class of 1987-1993

5 March 2022 – Great Hall, UPM

60 alumni from Kolej Kediaman Cikgu Rashid (KKCR) have joined a special hi-tea event with the Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice Chancellor, YH. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman. RM5,400.00, which is equivalent to three laptops was contributed by the KKCR alumni for students in need.



### MEKAR 7.0: Serdang Bees 40s Football Charity Match

12 March 2022 - Sports Centre Stadium, UPM

A football match between Serdang Bees 40s and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Legend alumni was held to strengthen the brotherhood of the two teams. In the meantime, the match is arranged to raise funds for the former Serdang Bees manager, Rozaini Ab



Rahim to support his operation. The match was officiated by the President of Kesatuan Kakitangan Am (KEPERTAMA) UPM, Norsyahriman Md Arif.

### Megachili Project Phase 1

14 March 2022 – Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah & Pendeta Za'ba Residential College

YAM Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail, Chairman of the University's Board of Directors has gladly visited the Megachili fertigation site at Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah and Pendeta Za'ba Residential College. The project gained sponsors from the Selangor Department of Agriculture, Bajanas, Humibox, and Alumni Relations Centre UPM. During the visit, YAM Dato' Seri advised the Megachili participants to move forwards and become successful agropreneur.





### UPM 45<sup>th</sup> Convocation: Alumni Graduation Package Distribution

19 – 30 March 2022 - UPM

A total of 3829 Alumni Graduation Packages have been distributed to the 2021 graduates' batch during the 45<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

### UPM di Puncak Dunia@Everest – UPM Flag Handover Ceremony to Mr Ravichandran

21 March 2022 - UPM

UPM flag Handover Ceremony from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Vice Chancellor, YH. Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman to Ravichandran Tharumalingam was held as a symbol for the soloist mountain climber, who begins his ascent to Mount Everest in March 2022 and is expected to complete his expedition in June 2022. UPM flag was raised at the peak of Mount Everest, hence bringing UPM to the eye of the world.



### Distribution of Alumni Membership Cards in Conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> Universiti Putra Malaysia Convocation Ceremony

21 - 31 March 2022 – UPM

During the 45<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, a PAUPM booth was set up in front of the Central Academic Lecture Hall (DKAP) to facilitate the distribution of Alumni Membership Cards for graduands. 6,142 graduates received degrees and diplomas at this convocation ceremony, including 484 Ph.D., 1,611 Master's degrees, 3,564 Bachelor's degrees, and 483 Diplomas. Congratulations to everyone who graduated!

## Highlights

### Gold Medal Recipient in Conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> UPM Convocation Ceremony

23 March 2022 – UPM Alumni Association

Congratulations to Siti Nursyarnisa binti Masmos, Alumni Gold Medal recipient for 2020/2021, who graduated as First-Class degree in Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development, Faculty of Education. She held various positions, including President of the Human Resource Development Student Association at UPM, Deputy President of the UPM Faculty of Education Student Association, and Vice President of the UPM Young Friends Secretariat. In addition, she was once declared the “Best Student Volunteer” by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and the “Best Student Volunteer” by the Binch Chanh District of HCMC, Vietnam, for her excellent service throughout the volunteer mission.



### Fraternity Camp CSA 2021/2022

25 – 27 March 2022 – Usima Forest Resort, Hutan Rekreasi Ayer Keroh, Melaka

A total of 32 members of Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) had undergone a fraternity camp to strengthen the bonding between CSA students and Alumni Relations Centre UPM as well as to train and develop their human capital. Among the activities conducted were internal modules, jungle tracking, rafting and explorece.



### Hand Over the Flood Victims' Emergency Fund Donation to WAZAN UPM

31 March 2022 – UPM Alumni Association

Following the December 2021 flood disaster, PAUPM took the initiative to launch an Emergency Fund. On March 2022, PAUPM including President, Dato' Raihan Sharif, Secretary-General, Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed, and Manager, Wan Ali Wan Ab Rahman handed over the fund to WAZAN UPM representative. Hopefully this donation will relieve the burden on those affected by the flood.



**Musaadah Ramadan – Tautan Mahabbah**

19 & 24 April 2022 – Rumah Amal Raudhatul Jannah, Banting

Musaadah Ramadan programme was organized to demonstrate Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) solidarity and concern towards the community in need, especially the orphans and asnaf. Rumah Amal Raudhatul Jannah occupies 28 residents ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old. Items contributed to the orphanage were hygiene kits, COVID-19 self-test kits, daily essentials such as foods and toiletries, as well as Eid contributions.



**Iftar Freemeals**

20 April 2022 - UPM

PAUPM Exco Members (including the President and the Secretary-General) assisted by Puan Rafidah Sadarudin (UPM Psychology Officer) and volunteers successfully distributed 150 iftar food packs for UPM students in front of UPM Modern Languages and Communication Faculty, Serumpun College and 10th Collage.

**Musaadah Ramadan – Mawaddah Ramadan**

23 April 2022 – UPM

Mawaddah Ramadan is a programme to distribute breakfasting meals or iftar for Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) students. This year, it was held on a large scale together with other departments at UPM which is called, Iftar Mega Putra 2.0. The iftar meals were contributed by UPM alumni, staff and external agencies to celebrate UPM students as well as the UPM community during the month of Ramadan.



## Highlights

### Iftar and Infak Ramadan Ceremony 2022

26 April 2022 – Dining Hall, UPM TNCPI Building

PAUPM, in collaboration with various alumni chapters, hosted the Ramadan Iftar and Infak Ceremony 2022, which was attended by 85 alumni members, including Chapter '75, Chapter '78, KASEL Chapter, Al Putra Chapter, and the School of Business and Economics Chapter. The ceremony was also attended by YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Putra Jamalullail (UPM Board of Directors Chairman), Hj. Ghazali Salamat (PAUPM Advisor), Prof. Dr. Nazamid Saari (UPM Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation), and Prof. Associate Dr. Mohd Daud Awang (WAZAN Management Centre Director).



### Donation for Asrama Haluan Penayang (AHP)

27 April 2022 – Asrama Haluan Penayang (AHP)

PAUPM handed over a total of RM3,500 cash donation to Asrama HALUAN Penayang (AHP), Shah Alam, Selangor, and Asrama Kasih Sayang, Sg. Petani, Kedah. This donation was collected during the Ramadan month. Thank you to all donors.

### Menteri Besar Selangor Scholarship

11 May 2022 - Chief Minister of Selangor Office

Menteri Besar Selangor Scholarship handover ceremony to four selected UPM students and the contribution handover from the Chief Minister of Selangor, Dato' Seri Amiruddin Shari (alumni class 2003). Menteri Besar Selangor Scholarship has sponsored RM15,000.00 to the four diploma students throughout their studies.







**UPM di Puncak Dunia@Everest: Mission Accomplished**

12 May 2022 - Mount Everest

History was gloriously made when the flag of Universiti Putra Malaysia was proudly raised at the world's highest peak, the summit of Mount Everest. A heartfelt congratulations to Ravichandran Tharumalingam (Alumni Class 1990) for his limitless efforts and passion to propel Malaysia and UPM in the eyes of the world.



**Veterinary Student Received Laptop through Alumni Care: Heart to Heart Initiative**

17 May 2022 - UPM

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) handed over a laptop to a Doctor of Veterinary student, Noraisyah Izzati Abdul Rahman. The donation entrusted by Yayasan Kebajikan Suria, James Philip Ho (Alumni Class 1974) was diligently distributed to students in need of a laptop to complete their studies with greater excellence.



**Alumni Sports Carnival in Conjunction with UPM Alumni Day 21 May**

21 – 22 May 2022 – UPM

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) celebrated Alumni Day. 21 May was gazetted at the University Management Committee as the university's Alumni Day. Alumni Day 2022 was officiated by YAM Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail. To commemorate UPM Alumni Day, Alumni Sports Carnival was organised offering six sports events to strengthen the ties between alumni and UPM community.



### Mega Raya Aidilfitri Celebration

30 May 2022 – Foyer, UPM TNCPI Building

The Mega Raya Aidilfitri celebration co-organised by five entities, namely, Deputy of Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Putra Business School (PBS), UPM Publisher, ARCUPM, and PAUPM was held at the foyer of UPM TNCPI building. YH Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, UPM Vice Chancellor and some prominent alumni (including Mr. Ravichandran, a Everest Mount solo climber) also present at the celebration. In addition, the President of the OKU Sentral Association, Senator Ras Adiba Radzi, presented a donation of laptops from the UPM Alumni Relations Centre to five students, including one disabled student (OKU).



### MEKAR 8.0: Chapter Alumni Astaka Seni Successfully Launched

3 June 2022 - Laman Warisan, Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, UPM

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) in collaboration with the Student Affairs Division, Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication and Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts and Cultural Centre has organised Menggamit Seribu Kenangan: Alumni Reunion (MEKAR) 8.0 to celebrate the establishment of Chapter Alumni Astaka Seni, officiated by Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Mua'ti@Zamri Ahmad, Dean of the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication.



### MEKAR 11.0: Kolej Islam Yayasan Pelajaran Johor (KIJ) 1998/1999 Matriculation Alumni Reunion

4 June 2022 - Chief Minister of Selangor Official Residence

An initiative taken by the Chief Minister of Selangor, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari to arrange a reunion with Kolej Islam Yayasan Pelajaran Johor (KIJ) 1998/1999 alumni in collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre UPM. During the reunion, they also took the opportunity to pay condolences to their departed friends. They also discussed about ways and efforts that can be taken to elevate the beloved *alma mater*.





**MEKAR 9.0: JPPPL Alumni Chapter Established**

6 June 2022 - Department of Professional Development and Continuing Education, Faculty of Educational Studies

Professional Development and Continuing Education (JPPPL) Alumni Chapter was established and officiated by Prof. Dr. Ismi Arif Ismail, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) Universiti Putra Malaysia. Laptop handing over also took place during the programme which was obtained through 1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit fund contribution.



**2 Generasi Batik Canting Painting Exhibition Launched**

9 June 2022 - Sultan Abdul Samad Library, UPM

A launching ceremony organised by Co-Curriculum and Student Development Centre in collaboration with Sultan Abdul Samad Library, Alumni Relations Centre, and Centre for Corporate Strategy and Relations Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The paintings were exhibited for one month from 9 July to 9 August, and were painted by UPM staff, Isnain Ali, his wife, Galinda Kamaruzaman and their son, Muhammad Alif Akram. The exhibition aimed to raise funds for 2 Generasi scholarship proceeds from the painting sales to assist the underprivileged, asnaf, B40 and persons with disabilities (OKU) UPM students.



**JPPPL Alumni Chapter Contribute Laptops to UPM Students**

28 June 2022 – Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM)

JPPPL Alumni Chapter was previously known as HRD Alumni Chapter and was established in 2019. Raised funds through 1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit (1A1SR) initiative, JPPPL Alumni Chapter has successfully handed over three laptops to the asnaf and B40 UPM students from the Bachelor of Science Human Resource Development. Together in the laptops handing over were Prof. Dr. Ismi Arif, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soaib Asimirin, Dean Faculty of Educational Studies, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud, Director Alumni Relations Centre, and, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Wahiza Abdul Wahat, Head Department of Professional Development and Continuing Education.



## International Alumni Chapter Launched

2 July 2022 - UPM

The Malaysian-based UPM International Alumni Chapter was officially launched by the Chief Minister of Selangor and witnessed by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Board of Directors Chairman, YAM Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail, Alumni Relations Centre Director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud, UPM Alumni Association President, Dato' Raihan Shariff, and International Alumni Chapter representatives.



## Keynote Address Hala Tuju dan Peranan Alumni Menyumbang ke Alma Mater in Conjunction with PAUPM Annual General Meeting @ 2022

2 July 2022 – Rashdan Baba Auditorium, TNCPI Building

Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, the Chief Minister of Selangor who is also the Patron of PAUPM, delivered a keynote address *Hala Tuju dan Peranan Alumni Menyumbang ke Alma Mater* at the PAUPM Annual General Meeting 2022. The Keynote Session was followed by a pre-launch gimmick for the Alumni Building Fund and the launching of the Malaysian-based UPM International Alumni Chapter.



## PAUPM Annual General Meeting 2022

2 July 2022 – Rashdan Baba Auditorium, TNCPI Building

The PAUPM Annual General Meeting 2022 was attended by 62 members, including PAUPM Top Management and Exco Members.





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### MEKAR 10.0: KPM 1972 Golden Jubilee and Endowment Contribution

4-6 July 2022 - UPM

A three days and two-nights KPM 1972 alumni reunion at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to reminisce about memories after 50 years they have left the *alma mater* upon graduation. Throughout their stay, they visited iconic landmarks and places associated with them back in 1972. Separately, KPM 1972 chapter handed over an endowment of RM72,000 to be distributed as a scholarship for UPM students in need.



### Norzack Scholarship for Diploma Student

12 July 2022 - Norzack Cafe, UPM

A fruitful discussion between Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) and Zakaria Abdullah from Norzack has resulted in a scholarship contribution of RM15,000.00 to one diploma student from intake 2022/2023.



### Yayasan Pak Rashid Mentorship

22 July 2022 - Alumni Relations Centre, UPM

A mentor-mentee concept programme aims to provide continuous guidance and increase the intensity of mentees progress. Dato' Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajudin, a member of the Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) Board of Trustees was given the responsibility of mentoring three YPR Scholarship 2021/2022 recipients.

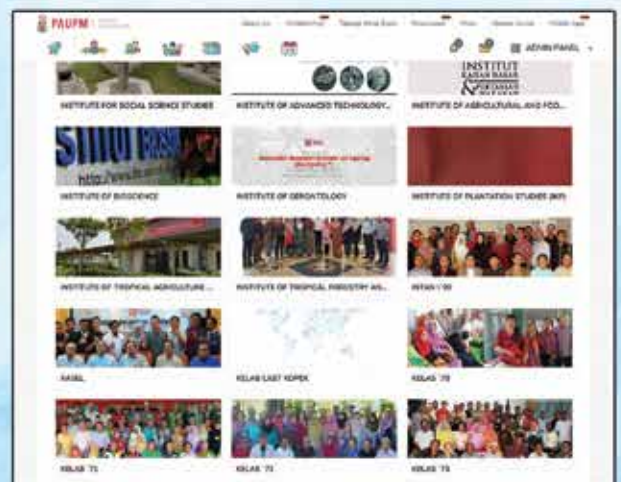
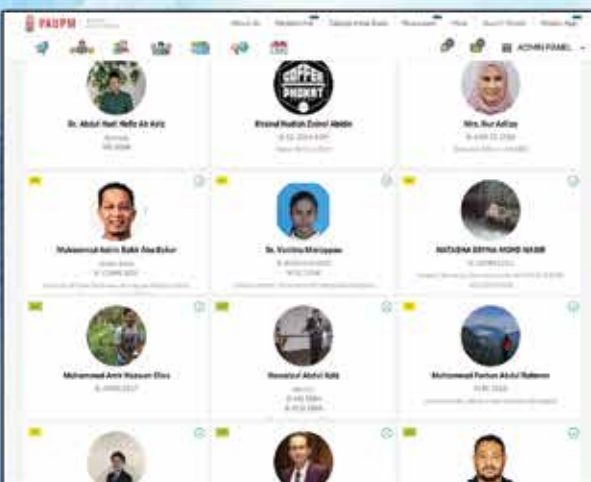




# PAUPM PORTAL

## WWW.PAUPMNETWORK.MY

- Can view our registered Alumni on geo map
- Stay connected with UPM and fellow Alumni
- Get up to date news of PAUPM and UPM activities





**PALAPES Alumni Association U-Putra (ALPUTRA) Bonding Night with PALAPES 2022**

24 July 2022 - Jauhari Hall KOSASS, UPM

ALPUTRA bonding dinner with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) PALAPES 2022 session. Attended the dinner was YH. Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, UPM Vice Chancellor and Tan Sri Datuk Seri Mazlan Lazim, ALPUTRA President. A contribution of RM30,000.00 from ALPUTRA was handed over to UPM. Together in the ceremony, Isnain Ali handed over Batik Canting painting to Tan Sri Datuk Seri Mazlan Lazim to demonstrate his support for the 2 Generasi alumni scholarship establishment.



**2 Generasi Scholarship Collects Fund Through Batik Canting Painting Sales**

27 July 2022 - UPM

Batik Canting exhibition was held from 9 June to 9 July at Sultan Abdul Samad Library, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to collect funds from the exhibit sales. Throughout the exhibition duration, it achieved its objective to accumulate RM15,000.00 to establish 2 Generasi scholarship and sponsor one UPM diploma student.



**Negeri Sembilan UPM Alumni Chapter Visit to UPM Alumni Association Office**

28 July 2022 – PAUPM Office

The Negeri Sembilan UPM Alumni Chapter visited the PAUPM office. 35 members including Hj. Aliman Ali, Head of Chapter Bureau and the Special Interest Group attended. PAUPM took the opportunity to brief the visitors on the role of the Association as well as showing the video of PAUPM Patron, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari delivering the Keynote Address during the AGM on 2 July 2022. The Negeri Sembilan Alumni Chapter, led by Hj. Samsul Bahri Hussain, also handed in a contribution to the Prihatin Alumni Fund.





**Read@Uni Laman Al-Falah Cinta Pada Ilmu Series Campaign**

1 August 2022 - Read@Uni Laman Al-Falah

Read@Uni is a reading campaign initiative for Malaysian universities initiated by the Ministry of Education. The main objective is to make reading habits particularly among university students to escalate by the year 2030. With that remark, Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) has its own Read@Uni known as Laman Al-Falah ARCUPM. To utilise the reading corner, ARCUPM has come out with the Cinta Pada Ilmu campaign to cultivate the love for knowledge among its staff. The campaign was launched by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud, Director of ACRUPM.



**Putra Icon Award 2019-2021**

11 August 2022 – UPM

Congratulations to the winner of Putra Icon Award 2019-2021. The programmes were organised by students in collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre UPM and received support from alumni in terms of monetary and in-kind.

- Best Association/Faculty/Club Award  
Puteri Sabrina Abdul Hadi (Chapter Student Ambassador CSA)  
Programme: Alumni Golden Fit (Malaysia Book of Records)
- Student Representative Council Leadership Award  
Ahmad Zaid Ismail  
Programme: International Forum COVID-19 Aftermath (IFOCA)
- Entrepreneurship Award  
Khairul Amirin Khairudin  
Programme: Agro Alumni Industry Mentoring and Coaching (AIMAC)
- Postgraduate Association Award  
Nurul Athira Affandi (Chapter YOSH Youth of Strength & Happiness)  
Programme: Kit 3K (Keselamatan, Kesehatan & Keceriaan)



**4-Way Football Friendly Match: UPM Serdang Bees Merdeka Cup 2022**

31 August 2022 – UPM Sports Centre

On National Day, the Serdang Bees Alumni, in collaboration with the UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) and UPM Alumni Centre (ARCUPM), organised a friendly football match with four competing teams, namely, the UPM Serdang Bees Alumni, the UPM International Alumni Chapter (UPMIAC), Club X, and the UPM staff team. Also present were Dato' Raihan Sharif, PAUPM President; Tuan Haji Ghazali Selamat, PAUPM Advisor; and Haji Wan Ali Wan Ab Rahman, PAUPM Manager. The event concluded after the PAUPM President presented the trophy to the winners. Congratulations.



**QKB 010/011 MPP 04 Scholarship for Diploma Student**

1 September 2022 - UPM

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Registrar, Mr. Muhazam Mansor has initiated a fund collection among QKB alumni which lead to the establishment of QKB 010/011 MPP 04 alumni scholarship. QKB is an accredited co-curriculum activity in the cultural cluster. QKB has offered RM15,000.00 scholarship to a diploma programme student.



## Highlights



### Appreciation Ceremony by MyFundAction 2 September 2022 – Shah Alam

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) Director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud received Anugerah Sumbangsih Universiti in conjunction with the MyFundAction Strategic Partners Collaboration Ceremony held at Mardhiyyah Hotel and Suites, Shah Alam.

### UPM Agriculture Diploma Reunion 1978

3 September 2022 – UPM TNCPI Building Foyer

A total of 55 alumni members attended the Reunion. Dato' Raihan Sharif, President, and Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed, Secretary General were also invited to the occasion. The event concluded with the group photo taking session. Congratulations to all members of Alumni Diploma Tani 1978. Till we meet again.



### Semarak Merdeka UPM 2022

5 September 2022 – UPM

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) has enlivened the Semarak Merdeka 2022 organised by Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts and Cultural Centre by joining and winning two competitions, Kibar Jalur Gemilang Inter-PTJ and Choir Inter-PTJ.

- Kibar Jalur Gemilang Inter-PTJ Competition – Fourth Place
- Choir Inter-PTJ – Best Attire Award

### Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) EKSA Final Valuation

14 September 2022 - ARCUPM

Conducive Ecosystem Public Sector (EKSA) is an effort to strengthen the organisational culture of high performance and innovation among public sector agencies by providing a conducive environment, work culture and positive values for public servants. Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) has participated in the EKSA category for several years and has won several awards throughout its participation. This year, ARCUPM managed to make its way to final valuation to be entitled in the HKIP award by December 2022. Two auditors were appointed to determine ARCUPM entitlement for the award. Nur Farah Hanani Abdul Hamed, Internal Audit Department and Roziah Hanum Ramli, Office of Vice-Chancellor had diligently evaluated



**Selamat Pagi Malaysia Slot for Homecoming XI 2022**

30 September 2022 - RTM, Angkasapuri

Director of Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud and Mr. Ravichandran Tharumalingam (Alumni Class 1990) were invited to be guests for Selamat Pagi Malaysia slot on Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) as part of a promotional plan for Homecoming XI 2022.



**Malam Sirih Pulang ke Gagang@Homecoming XI 2022**

1 October 2022 - Main Hall, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts and Cultural Centre

DYMM Sultan Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj has departed to Sirih Pulang ke Gagang@Homecoming XI 2022, organised by Alumni Relations Centre UPM. Three Founding Faculties: Spurring the Glories of UPM book was officially launched by His Royal Highness on the occasion. Ravichandran Tharumalingam (alumni class 1990) received the main award, Anugerah Mutiara Alumni. Warmest gratitude to the main sponsors of the occasion, Usaha Jana Sdn. Bhd., Persatuan Al-Putra, Chapter'72, and Majlis Agama Islam Selangor.

**Homecoming XI 2022 Alumni Golf Tournament**

1 October 2022 - UniPutra Golf Club

Homecoming Alumni Golf Universiti Putra Malaysia was held to celebrate the return of alumni to UPM campus. Vice Chancellor, YH. Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman also joined in as a participant. The tournament was held in conjunction with Sirih Pulang Ke Gagang @ Homecoming XI 2022 Charity Dinner.



**EKSA Final Valuation**

6 October 2022 - Alumni Relations Centre UPM

Alumni Relations Centre UPM was audited for the final valuation of EKSA (Ekosistem Kondusif Sektor Awam) 2022. The valuation was audited by Mohd Isnain Ali from the Co-Curriculum and Student Development Centre, Nur Nadjla Ahmad Rajaei from School of Graduate Studies and Azizah Hj Noh from Bursar.



## Highlights

### Alumni Information System (AIS): Hari Kualiti & Inovasi Perkhidmatan (HKIP) Service Innovation Pitching 12 October 2022 - Mini Auditorium, TNCP Building

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) participated in the UPM Service Innovation Award 2022 through the Alumni Information System (AIS) in conjunction with Hari Kualiti dan Inovasi (HKIP). The presentation was led by Fahmi Azar Mistar and Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan.



### Alumni Relations Centre SIRIM QMS 9001:2015 Audit 18 October 2022 - Alumni Relations Centre UPM

Alumni Relations Centre has successfully undergone SIRIM QMS 9001:2015 auditing and was audited by Wan Khairul Anuar Wan Ali.

### Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) 2022/2023 Mobility: Kembara Dunia Yogyakarta

2-16 October 2022 - Universitas Gadjah Mada,  
Yogyakarta

10 CSA students went for a mobility programme at Universitas Gadjah Mada funded by entrepreneurial activities done through Putrabiz@ Alumni buggy throughout the UPM 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony. Several activities were outlined for the mobility programme.

- A visit to the Faculty of Animal Science, Faculty of Social Science and Political Science
- Attending lecture series on the production of livestock, meat nutrition, Ayo Angon project
- Practical session at the laboratory
- A visit to the orphanage
- Participating in cultural and traditional activities
- A visit to popular landmarks in Yogyakarta
- Presentation of mobility report



### Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) 2022/2023 Ice Breaking Session

27 October 2022 - Balai Minda, KOSASS, UPM  
An ice-breaking session with Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA) members for the 2022/2023 session was held. The session began with a briefing on the introduction of CSA. The students are then sorted into their respective homerooms led by facilitators among Alumni Relations Centre UPM staff. The homerooms introduced in this session were TRACE, SEBA, Mekar, Showcase, Musaadah, and Homecoming.





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# TERIMA KASIH

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## Highlights

### UPM 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation: UPM Bintulu First Session

1 November 2022 - Sri Kenyalang Hall, UPM Bintulu Campus  
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu campus held its first convocation ceremony which celebrated 405 alumni class of 2022.



### Majlis Mesra Alumni with UPM Borneo Chapter

2 November 2022 - UPM, Bintulu Campus

Alumni Relations Centre UPM in collaboration with UPM Alumni Association had organised *Majlis Mesra Alumni* UPM Chapter Borneo at Dewan Sidang, Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Campus (UPMKB). The ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), university management, UPMKB management, and alumni from Alumni Chapter UPMKB, Alumni Chapter Semenggok, UPM Alumni Sabah, and UPM Alumni Sarawak. *Mesra Alumni* was held to strengthen the ties and networking between Borneo alumni, the university and Alumni Relations Centre.



### Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) 2022/2023 Top Committee Election

4 November 2022 - Alumni Relations Centre UPM

An election of 11 CSA candidates to fill in the top committee posts and was elected among the CSA members session 2022/2023.



### Benchmark Visit from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM)

10 November 2022 - Alumni Relations Centre UPM

A benchmark visit from the Centre of Alumni Management and Graduate Employability, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) to Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) for the exchange of ideas and future collaboration from both entities.



### Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) 2022/2023 Organisation Enhancement Workshop

27 October - 16 December 2022 - UPM

A workshop sessions organised to upskill students and prepare them for future endeavors either in campus or in the working world upon their graduation.

- Slot 1 : Fundamentals of Leadership
- Slot 2 : Asas Pengucapan Awam Fundamentals of Public Speaking
- Slot 3 : Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship
- Slot 4 : Proposal, Letter, Report, and Minutes of Meeting Writing
- Slot 5 : Protocol and Event Management
- Slot 6 : Effective Communication
- Slot 7 : Funding and Sponsorship





# PERSATUAN ALUMNI PALAPES U-PUTRA (ALPUTRA)

PPM-026-10-09102017



# Terima Kasih

kepada Alumni UPM atas  
kerjasama yang diberikan  
kepada ALPUTRA selama ini.

Saya dan barisan Exco  
ALPUTRA menyeru kepada  
semua pegawai kadet PALAPES  
UPM yang telah ditauliahkan  
oleh Seri Paduka Baginda Yang  
DiPertuan Agong untuk  
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**YBHG. TAN SRI DATUK SERI  
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Presiden

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**ALUMNI PALAPES UPM - ALPUTRA**



### Meet and Greet Session with Alumni Gold Medal Recipients, Tan Kim Hock

25 November 2022 - UPM Alumni Association

Meet and greet session with Alumni Gold Medal Recipient, Tan Kim Hock was held at PAUPM Office. Dato' Raihan Sharif (PAUPM President), Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed (PAUPM Secretary-General) and Hj. Wan Ali Wan Ab Rahman (PAUPM Manager) welcomed him followed by the RM3,000 cheque presentation after getting-to-know-you session. In brief, Tan Kim Hock graduated in Bachelor of Science (Forestry) and now attached to Eclipse Green Sdn. Bhd. as an Arborist Assistant. Congratulations!



### UPM 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation: Alumni Graduation Package Distribution

26 November - 2 December 2022 - UPM

A total of 3991 Alumni Graduation Packages have been distributed to the 2022 graduates batch during the 46<sup>th</sup> Convocation.



### Alumni Card Distribution in Conjunction with 46<sup>th</sup> UPM Convocation Ceremony 2022

26 November - 8 December 2022 - UPM

During the 46<sup>th</sup> UPM Convocation Ceremony, PAUPM set up the booth in front of Dewan Kuliah Akademik Pusat (DKAP) to assist with the distribution of alumni cards for those graduates at this ceremony. During this ceremony, 5,688 graduates received their degrees and diplomas, including 517 PhDs, 1,501 Master Degrees, 3,667 Bachelor Degrees, and 3 diplomas. Congratulations!

### Hari Kualiti dan Inovasi Perkhidmatan (HKIP), Alumni Relations Centre Winning Combos

6 December 2022 - UPM

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) has enliven *Hari Kualiti dan Inovasi Perkhidmatan* (HKIP) 2022 and succeeded a winning streaks as follows:

- Overall Champion - Read@Uni Reading Corner Award
- First Place - Read@Uni Reading Corner Award (Category Centre)
- First Place - Workplace Environment Quality Award (Category C)



### Putra LoVA (Longest Non Stop Volunteerism Activities) for 40 Hours

10 - 11 December 2022 - UPM

Putra LoVA was held by the Co-Curriculum and Student Development Centre UPM in conjunction with the International Volunteer Day. Clubs and associations in UPM also collaborated in the volunteerism programme. The projects which involved collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre UPM were:

- Project 7 Let's Revitalise Our Golf Field - Repainting the waqf hut sponsored by YAM Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalulail at the UniPutra Golf Club.
- Project 18, 19 Serve Your Creativity - Painting doodle mural at Kompleks Mahasiswa.







# Farm FRESH®





**PAUPM Visits at Saudagar Nanas Agrofarm, Sungai Merab**

15 December 2022 - Sungai Merab

The owner of Saudagar Nanas Agrofarm, Encik Mohd Noor Hardy Mohd Norzain, an alumnus of 1999 and 2002, was visited by PAUPM Exco, ARCUPM Deputy Director and staff. The main goal of this type of visit is to build a strong bonding and networking with alumni who are entrepreneurs and businessmen. Encik Hardy said that the idea for Saudagar Nanas Agrofarm arose from his interest in marketing agricultural products through agrotourism concept. PAUPM would like to thank the host for accepting the visit and for sharing his stories and experiences about his business. Thank you and best wishes!



**CSA 2021/2022 Appreciation Ceremony, Presenting CSA 2022/2023 Appointment Letters & Mega Chili Phase 2 Kickstart**

16 December 2022 - UPM

An appreciation ceremony for Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA) session 2021/2022 and the presentation of appointment letters for CSA session 2022/2023 was held on the same occasion. Afterwards, a kickstart for Mega Chili project phase 2 was officiated by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni).

**Courtesy Visit of the Alumni Association of the University of Technology of Malaysia (PAUTM) to the Office of PAUPM**

22 December 2022 - UPM Alumni Association

PAUPM was pleased to receive a courtesy visit from PAUTM. This courtesy visit was led by YB Senator Sr. Hj. Mohd Apani Mohamad (PAUTM President) and was accompanied by Encik Muhammad Fareez Abu Suaib Khan (PAUTM Honorary Secretary) and Encik Mohd Yazid Mohammed Noor (PAUTM Manager). PAUPM Exco Members led by Dato' Raihan Sharif (President), Dato' Syed Abdul Rahman Abdul Rashid (Vice President), Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed (Secretary-General), Hj. Zainal Abidin Yahya (Treasurer), and Cik Nurfadliza Minhat (Deputy Secretary) welcomed the visitors. The purpose of this visit was to share ideas, strengthen the inter-association relationships, and collaboration in various fields of activities. PAUPM would like to thank PAUTM for their visit and hopes this relationship will continue for the benefit of the two Associations.





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## Highlights



### Negeri Sembilan Chapter *Ukhuwah Sahabat UPM* Luncheon

28 December 2022 - Seremban

A luncheon programme of *Ukhuwah Sahabat UPM* was held at The Rimba Lavender Heights Restaurant in Seremban by UPM Negeri Sembilan Alumni Chapter. PAUPM was represented by Dato' Raihan (President), Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed (Secretary-General), Hj. Zainal Abidin Yahya (Treasurer) and Hj. Ghazali Salamat (Advisor). The objective of this programme was to strengthen alumni brotherhood and reminiscence of the good old days and introduction of the new members of the Negeri Sembilan Chapter. Hopefully this type of activities will be held more often in the future.



### Warisan Budi Clock Tower: Manifestation of from Alumni to Alma Mater

The main objective of the construction of the clock tower is to appreciate every contribution made by alumni and the campus community. It is also a symbol that time is gold and time is crucial for success. Warisan Budi Clock Tower will be a new landmark of UPM as well as a one-stop centre for students to gather especially during convocation. With an enormous budget of RM1.4 million collected, the clock tower construction plan which was on hiatus for 16 years, is expected to be completed by June 2023.

### Razlan Putra Medal Recipient in Conjunction with Universiti Putra Malaysia Convocations of 2020, 2021 And 2022

2020, 2021, and 2022 - UPM

The Razlan Putra Medal was presented to three winners in conjunction with the Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Putra Malaysia for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. This Medal is given to graduates who are involved in education and sports. Syed Mohamad Syafiq Syed Cholan, a Bachelor of Science (Human Development) graduate who plays hockey, was awarded the Razlan Putra Medal for 2020, Ang Min Shan, a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management and archery enthusiast for 2021 and Muhamad Safiy bin Md Said, a Bachelor of Physical Education and rugby player, received the Razlan Putra Medal for 2022. Congratulations to all the winners!





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# Tahniah

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**ANUGERAH SUDUT BACAAN READ@UNI**

**TEMPAT PERTAMA**  
**ANUGERAH SUDUT BACAAN READ@UNI (KATEGORI PUSAT)**

**TEMPAT PERTAMA**  
**ANUGERAH KUALITI PERSEKITARAN TEMPAT KERJA (KATEGORI C)**

**SAGUHATI 1**  
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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.

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- Ahli Bersekutu / *Associate Member*  
• RM50 / Tahun / *Year*
- Cetak Semula / *Reprint*  
• RM10

### Kaedah Pembayaran / Payment Method

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cek / <i>Cheque</i>	No. Cek / <i>Cheque No.</i> :
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tunai / <i>Cash</i>	RM :
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pembayaran atas talian / <i>Online Transfer</i>	RM : Reference No. :

Cek/ kiriman wang boleh dibayar atas nama “**Persatuan Alumni UPM**”  
No Akaun CIMB 8002150285

Cheque/ postal order payable to “**Persatuan Alumni UPM**” CIMB  
Account No. 8002150285

.....  
 Tandatangan / *Signature*

Untuk Kegunaan Pejabat / *For Office Use*  
Permohonan diluluskan / *Application approved,*

Tidak diluluskan / *Not Approved*

Tarikh diluluskan / *Approve date* : \_\_\_\_\_

No. Keahlian / *Membership number* : \_\_\_\_\_

\*Sila Sertakan bersama salinan Diploma/  
Ijazah anda.

*\*Please attach your Diploma/ Bachelor  
certificate copy here.*

**Persatuan Alumni UPM (PAUPM)**  
Aras Bawah, Bangunan Timbalan Naib Canselor  
(Penyelidikan & Inovasi), Off Lebuh Silikon  
Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang  
Selangor Darul Ehsan

☎ 03 9769 1255/ 7242/ 7243/ 7244

✉ alumniupm@gmail.com

🌐 <http://www.paupmnetwork.my>

📘 Persatuan Alumni UPM-PAUPM



**UPM**  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA  
BERILMU BERBAKTI



# PEMBINAAN MENARA JAM WARISAN BUDI UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA



**TERIMA KASIH ATAS SUMBANGAN  
PARA ALUMNI & SEMUA WARGA UPM  
"DARIPADA ALUMNI KEPADA UPM"**



## Imbas Kod QR Untuk Menyumbang

**PEJABAT  
BURSARI**



**PLAAT PERHIMPAN ALUMNI  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**  
لوحه فريهونون لوجي



**FAKULTI PEKABENTUK  
DAN SENI BINA**  
فكره لوجي ديكولور دان سني بنا



**PEJABAT PEMBANGUNAN  
DAN PENGURUSAN ASET**  
بجاعت بيبانوان دان فريهونون اسيهت





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