

a tradition of giving, a culture of bonding
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UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025
Continuing UPM 50 Years
of Excellence

Solidarity is the Essence of
UPM Alumni

JUBLI EMAS

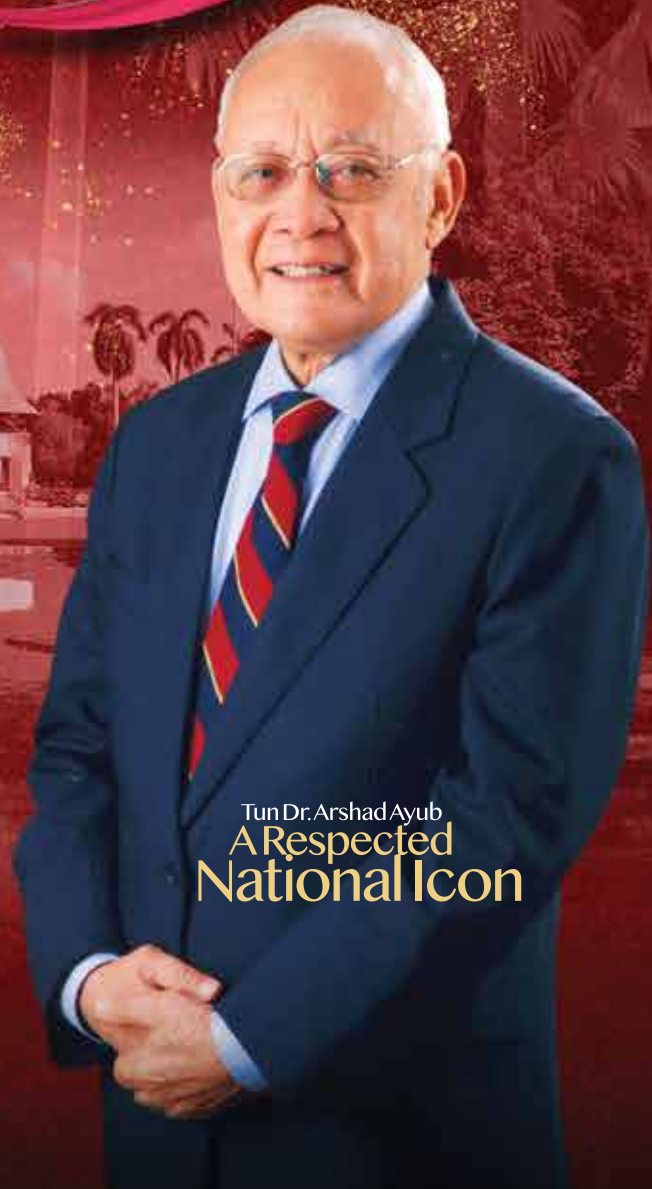
جوبلي امسن

UPM 1971-2021



**Embracing
New Norms**

“Echoing the Call of Al-Falah
from the Tower of Knowledge”



Tun Dr. Arshad Ayub
**A Respected
National Icon**

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(January-December 2021)



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voice of the chief editor

50 Golden Years of Excellence

The year 2021 marks Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) or previously known as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia 50 years of its establishment as a university, hence the whole year is commemorated as UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021). Various high impact programmes have been conducted by Alumni Relations Centre in conjunction with the celebrations such as UPM Alumni Golden Fit - Road to the Malaysia Book of Records, UPM *Prihatin* Kit 3K (*Keselamatan, Kesihatan, Keceriaan*), UPM *Prihatin* Device Aids and Data Plan for the underprivileged students as well as UPM 50 Years Gold Bar sales. Despite of being affected with COVID-19 pandemic effects, it does not hamper the spirit of 50 years of excellence among UPM community.

A meaningful year was carved when Alumni Relations Centre hosted the Malaysian Public Universities Alumni Day 2021 where it was officiated by the Ministry of Higher Education representatives. The ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu, UPM Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Malaysian Public Universities Alumni Council Chairman and representatives from public universities. Memorably, Alumni Information System (AIS) was

launched during the ceremony. The system integrates the alumni and the alma mater data to facilitate efficient ties and bonding between them.

This issue also highlights the views and aspirations of Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of UPM in embracing the new norms and echoing the call of Al-Falah from the Tower of Knowledge. This issue also contains feature article on "Tun Dr. Arshad Ayub, A Respected

National Icon" where the icon shared his success stories which eventually led to his bestowment for the Academic Distinguished Award in 2020. He also talked on the new norms culture, among others.

The theme of this current issue is UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021) as we feature the continuing narratives of UPM years of excellence, alongside its celebrated icons. It is hoped readers will have pleasant time reading "Alumni Scholarship Realising Hope and Success" which caters on the roles of alumni in the giving back tradition towards educational excellence. This publication also features other articles on alumni contributions and activities throughout this memorable year.

Together we will pursue and strive another 50 years of excellence and thus, #sayabangamenjadialumniupm.



Embracing New Norms “Echoing **the Call of *Al-Falah*** from the Tower of Knowledge”

Writer: Assoc. Prof Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain
Centre for Corporate Strategy and Relations

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of higher education institutions globally. UPM is no exception to this effect. Although COVID-19 is often highlighted in a negative perspective as a threat to human and economic securities, this pandemic has brought our university back to our original role, which is the university for society. If all this time we have chanted the idea of University for Society (U4S), this is the best time for us to deliver on what we have promised.

Through the Vice Chancellor's Narrative, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman invited everyone to reflect on the purpose of the establishment of UPM. What is the philosophy behind the establishment of UPM? Is it for us to be proud of our achievements and recognition that we are increasingly detached from the reality of the society? Or do we need to be realistic to make UPM a caring institution that gives meaningful contributions to the society and the country?

“I am of the view that a paradigm shift from knowledge for the sake of knowledge to knowledge for the society and the country needs to be championed. We have no choice but to move from the idea of the Ivory Tower to the Tower of Knowledge”, he urged. The tower of knowledge meant here is the way UPM is empowered to become an institution that pioneers the exploration of new knowledge through research and innovation, imparting



knowledge to students through teaching and learning activities, and knowledge transfer to the community through industry and community networks.

Therefore, he chooses the theme of **'Menara Ilmu'** or the Tower of Knowledge as an aspiration and direction that UPM should embrace to remain relevant, respected and always being referred to as 3Rs (relevant, respected and referred).

"Based on this Tower of Knowledge, we echo Al-Falah's call to the whole community. From this Tower of Knowledge, we invite all members of the society to walk together towards the real success, that is, the success in this world and in the hereafter. And in conveying this call of Al-Falah to our society, we need to perform two important tasks which are to call for good and to prevent evil. In Ali Imran Chapter verse 110, Allah SWT says, which means *"You are the best of the people who are removed from among mankind because you command to do good (makruf), and you prevent from doing evil (mungkar), and you believe in Allah"*.

To echo Al-Falah's call from the Tower of Knowledge, the narrative focuses on five main strategies, namely Driving High-Tech Agriculture, Developing UPM Graduate Personality, Working towards Smart Campuses and Digitalisation, Supporting Sustainable Institutions and Embracing New Norms Culture. He believes that the aspirations and direction of UPM are in line with the mandate of the government, the Ministry of Higher Education and UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 to ensure that Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs), especially UPM, will always make meaningful contributions to national prosperity and global well-being.



According to Prof. Dr. Roslan, high-tech agriculture will be mainstreamed through four (4) main strategies, namely:

- 1) increase the integration of research across fields to produce high-tech innovations to ensure that these innovations can give maximum impact. For example, the combination of expertise in agriculture, engineering, and information technology in producing innovations in sensing and automation systems.
- 2) creating a roadshow of high-tech agricultural models in UPM in collaboration with local and international industries.
- 3) the production of high-tech products with UPM brand that has an impact.
- 4) the empowerment of talented and skilled groups that are able to adapt to rapid changes to encourage the creation of new products or technologies. In this case, UPM was selected by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to develop the Bachelor of Smart Agricultural Technology Programme to produce graduates who will lead the country's smart agricultural sector. The programme has been approved by the University Senate and will be offered soon.

In the Vice Chancellor's narrative ceremony, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan also launched the 50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations of UPM as a university (1971-2021). Various interesting programmes and activities were organised throughout 2021.



Among them, the Gold Bar sales, publication of Coffee Table Book '50 Jewels of UPM and Gema Simfoni performance in collaboration with Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts and Cultural Centre, UPM and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM).

In addressing the challenges of well-being in the new norms in particular, Prof. Dr. Roslan announced the introduction of UPM Citizens' Well -Being Index or *Indeks Kesejahteraan Warga UPM*. The index, was organised by the Institute of Social Science Studies (IPSAS), UPM, will measure the level of well-being of UPM citizens in supporting the Work-Life Balance (WLB) initiative.

Features

In addition, UPM also responded to MOHE's digitalisation agenda. In this regard, Prof. Dr. Roslan shared UPM's efforts through several initiatives and smart campus implementation strategies for the period 2021-2025. Efforts towards digitalisation have been driven through 30 smart campus initiatives covering four clusters, namely, Digital Learning, Smart Manage, Secure Campus and IoT Application. All these smart campus initiatives will be branded under the name Smart PUTRA®.

Embracing New Norms

As we all know, 2020 is a *vivere pericoloso* year, a difficult year for the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Malaysia is no exception in facing this invisible threat which directly affects various critical sectors, including higher education. All of us in UPM must go about our daily routines by adapting to the new norms in all aspects of our operations including having to Work from Home (WFH).

Moreover, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the human landscape universally. The way we work and manage our daily affairs changes as we accept new norms that emphasize human safety. These new norms are embraced using the CAPP approach, namely PREVENT, PRACTICE, OBEY and MONITOR by targeting individuals, families, and communities in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Embracing the New Norms campaign was launched at the national level and MOHE last year. Like other universities, UPM has, from time to time, prepared a report on embracing the New Norms to MOHE in support of this initiative.

As in other sectors, the higher education sector, especially universities, are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. All university activities underwent major changes following the implementation of the Movement Control Order (PKP) and physical distancing. These include teaching and learning, research and innovation as well as industry and community networking. UPM is still adapting to these new norms, but it is hoped that the University will be able to continue to excel and strengthen its position as a scholastic institution of knowledge and the Tower of Knowledge.

In the context of UPM, our efforts to uphold embracing these new norms are not only to ensure that the health of the university community



is protected, but also to ascertain the continuity of university operations remains sustainable and resilient in the future. In this regard, we are strengthening our risk management and crisis communication abilities. At the same time, UPM will continue to utilise the Emergency Response Team or ERT to deal with various emergency situations involving the safety of the campus community systematically.

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has created an extraordinary atmosphere. Therefore, we must also act in an extraordinary manner. Vice Chancellor added, this is a golden opportunity for us to 'reset' the administrative style and delivery of UPM services so that we can be more effective and beneficial to stakeholders. We cannot use the pandemic as an excuse to not provide the best service. Instead, we need to think in remarkable ways to ensure that the administration and delivery of our services run smoothly. Extraordinary moments require extraordinary ways for us to cope with.

In addition, Vice Chancellor believed that embracing the new norms should not be an obstacle or constraint for us to work on strengthening UPM's contribution in terms of intellectual and community services. During the implementation period of MCO, we have had the opportunity to boost the culture of debate and scholarly discourse by organising webinars both at the University and College levels.

If in the past we might have faced some constraints in organising such series of discourses due to logistic factors, now with just a touch of a finger, we can hold discussions online without in the least reducing the quality of debate and discourse. He believes, if we manage to maintain the momentum of this discourse and scholarly culture, we will be able to practice good workplace culture among the UPM community.

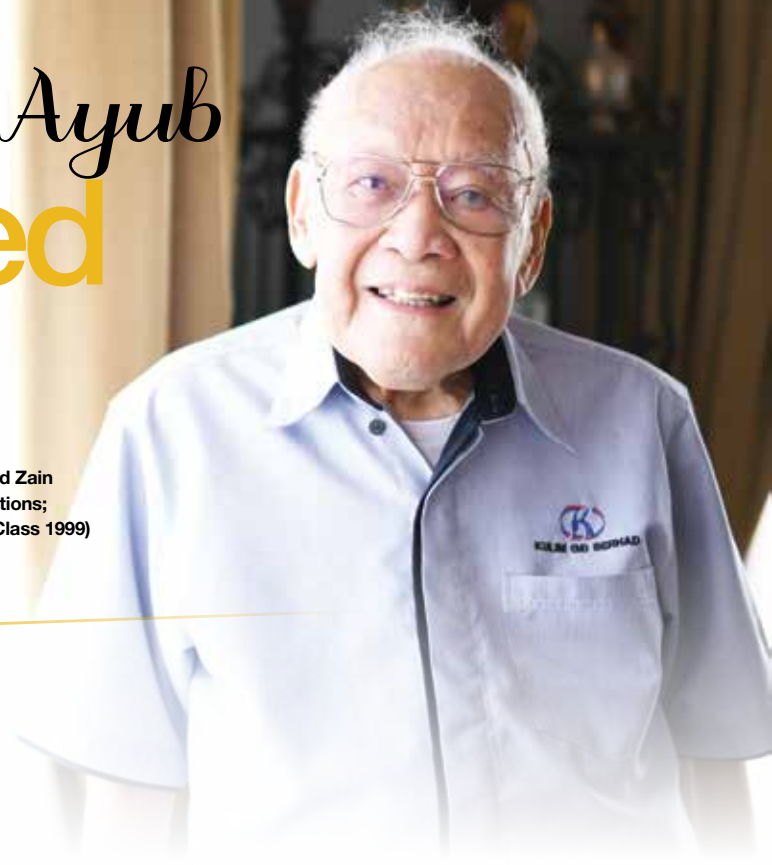


Many have said that 2021 challenges will be a continuation of the 2020. Amidst these uncertainties and the COVID-19 pandemic, let us pray to Allah S.W.T that we will be able to go through this ordeal. We look out for each other. We are strong together, and we will win.

Tun Dr. Arshad Ayub

A Respected National Icon

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain
Centre for Corporate Strategy and Relations;
Prof. Dr. Mohamad Fazli Sabri (Alumni Class 1999)
Faculty of Human Ecology



Tun Dr. Arshad Ayub is not only a symbol of success to UPM Alumni but also a national icon, specifically, in the field of agriculture and higher education. In recognition of his tremendous contribution in the realm of higher education, the nation has bestowed upon him the Academic Distinguished Award (*Tokoh Akademik*) in 2020. Occasionally, his opinions may sound 'harsh' as he has strong views regarding certain issues, particularly those related to higher education. He even challenged academic professors to partake in a more effective academic leadership role in nation building.

He was one of the early batch of students to graduate from College of Agriculture Malaya (1953-1954). He is an alumnus that has achieved enormous successes in numerous endeavours so much so he is considered an icon for this country. Through his vast experience, he single-handedly established an academic college known as Mara Institute of Technology, now known as Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM).

Prior to his admission into College of Agriculture Malaya, he was an Assistant Officer in RIDA which is an old name for MARA (Majlis Amanah Rakyat or the Rural & Industrial Development Authority (RIDA). Although he was admitted late into the college, he was determined to know

everything about agriculture. He had a deep appreciation about agriculture, as he believed society and the country could develop further through a comprehensive knowledge about agriculture.

He reiterated, "In the beginning, the objective of RIDA was to improve the condition of the Malay villages. One of the teachers in the college, Che'gu Rashid, assisted the late Dato' Onn bin Jaafar in developing the villages. He told Dato Onn that the officers and village headmen should have a good understanding about agriculture".

It is not easy to be successful in life. Tun believes that with only a lot of sacrifice and discipline, can one propel to succeed in life. The hardships in life including

those difficult periods during the second World War and Japanese occupation, drove Tun to work hard. His parents were rubber tappers and putting food on the table was a challenge. "Having rice or porridge once a week was a luxury". He supplemented the family income by collecting and selling fruits.

Tun had a tremendous respect for Pak Rashid as an educator. He was dedicated, responsible and caring. He was willing to sacrifice anything for his students. He was like a father figure for those who were far from home.

Remembering Pak Rashid

Tun has a good memory in recalling his times while studying at the College of Agriculture Malaya. He reminisced the close bond and relationship between the lecturers and students. As the number of students was small, this helped in fostering close understanding among them. The lecturers were more caring and more approachable in offering assistance.

Tun had a tremendous respect for Pak Rashid as an educator. He was dedicated, responsible and caring. He was willing to sacrifice anything for his students. He was like a father figure for those who were far from home. Although he was not highly educated, he taught his students so diligently of what he knew, until his persona still lingered in them after they had left the college.

Tun elaborated further his personal insight about Pak Rashid, "Although he was an ordinary man without a degree, he had deep impact on everyone around him. He was a college principal and lecturer, who could impart effectively his wide knowledge and experience about agriculture to his students. He motivated his students to work hard, sometimes to the extent of forgoing breakfast. He used to holler caringly, "Do you think without a morning coffee, you cannot survive." He knew he was in a certain position to help his students, such as by loaning his car and house. This is what I mean, that a deep commitment is important."



Features

From Agriculture to Putra

He was one of the well-known personalities who opposed the renaming of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia. He quoted the example of Agriculture and Mechanical University (A&M) in America, which despite having an engineering programme, still retained its agriculture name. Some agreed with him, including the late Tan Sri Basir Ismail, the late Tan Sri Mohd Noor Ismail and past graduates of UPM. The insistence for the name change was the wish of the then Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad."

innovative and brave to generate new ideas and movements to move the staff and resources to a higher level. His/her vision should benefit the public in general.

During the interview, Tun also stated that a university should not be an ivory tower exclusively for the academicians but must be more inclusive involving the participation of the surrounding community, as practised by the former generations at Serdang. He said, "Those who think a university should be an ivory tower and exclusive must realise that it is no longer a saleable nor acceptable concept."

of online education. He hopes UPM could upgrade the facilities of online learning and internet network among the students.

For the older generation, using new technology is a challenge, according to him. He hopes the new generation will be well versed in the new technology. "I am not used to these new things. My grandchildren help me with the current technology. They teach me how to use the laptop. There are people like me, don't worry. But they must know." Tun quipped.



Nevertheless, nowadays, he tends to agree with the name change, as he thinks UPM should be a comprehensive university. At present, UPM has many faculties including Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the old name would not reflect its role as a cross-disciplinary university.

Tun was jubilant at the success of UPM and now celebrating its 50th anniversary. He hopes UPM would not flounder in its continual efforts to succeed. UPM leadership and the staff should work effectively to ensure the development of UPM is always relevant of the time.

Tun also believes that an effective Vice-Chancellor plays a crucial role in shaping the future development of a university. He/she must be

Tun suggestion is in line with the wishes of the Vice-Chancellor who wants the University to be an ivory tower of knowledge that can serve the community. The Vice-Chancellor, in his latest public address has urged the staff to create new knowledge through research, to teach and transfer knowledge through an intensive and extensive networking activities between the university and the communities.

New Norms Culture

The COVID-19 pandemic in general, has affected the teaching plan of tertiary education. To Tun, the biggest positive impact is in the online learning and teaching system as COVID-19 has expedited the development

UPM is in the forefront in online learning. During the Movement Control Order (MCO) period or *Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP)*, UPM has introduced many methodologies and approaches to online learning. It is part of the academic transformation process in teaching and learning.

During the MCO, UPM instituted an online teaching and learning to be conducted for all courses at the level of Diploma, Bachelor, Master/PhD, Agriculture Basic Science, and Diploma preparation programmes including for those mobility inbound students from overseas. Final assessments were conducted in new alternative forms/modes, such as take-home-exam, open-book-exam and online examination. The oral assessments

(viva voce) for the Master and PhD theses were also conducted online.

Tun's vast experience has helped him in becoming a great administrator for higher education, as shown in the tremendous strides he made in establishing and administering Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) formerly known as Institut Teknologi MARA. Tun stated that there should be a close cooperation between the university and the industry. Within

the context of UPM, the close association should be in the fields of plantation and estate.

He recalled his experience in the collaboration between the university and industry. "In those days, one of the lecturers from the industry was Mr Watsons, who was a statistician from the Department of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur. He used to cycle to teach in Serdang. You know we did not have many professors then, but a lot of the

part time lecturers were people from the industries".

During our conversation with Tun, we were amazed at the indomitable spirit shown by him. It clearly shows his love for UPM is still there, although he has long left UPM. Tun is an UPM alumnus and national icon we should be proud of. May god bless him with a long and healthy life.



He hopes the new generation will be well versed in the new technology. "I am not used to these new things. My grandchildren help me with the current technology. They teach me how to use the laptop. There are people like me, don't worry. But they must know." Tun quipped.



Solidarity is the **Essence of** **UPM Alumni**

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud (Alumni Class 1997, 1999, 2004)
Alumni Relations Centre



The long journey that UPM has gone through started from the School of Agriculture Malaya, College of Agriculture Malaya, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia and now known as Universiti Putra Malaysia has produced more than 200,000 graduates. They are the alumni who had successfully completed their studies in various disciplines in UPM. This enormous number of alumni shows that UPM as a knowledge centre has played a role in providing human capital and expertise in various fields for the nation's development. As alumni, they need to be prepared to be evaluated by the community based on the success of the training programmes offered in UPM. This is because they represent themselves as agents and products of UPM who have gone through various phases of tutoring as students until they successfully graduated to be eventually honourably acknowledged as UPM alumni.

As alumni, their contributions to alma mater are highly appreciated and welcomed. The spirit of togetherness and the desire to serve UPM in various ways is highly expected. UPM aims to produce graduates who are holistic, competitive, and future-proofed as outlined in the higher education direction can be demonstrated through the role of its alumni. Their role in advancing the university through various contributions is essential. On the shoulders of alumni, there is a huge responsibility for them to contribute back to alma mater in monetary form, for example, through the sponsorship of scholarships for diploma and bachelor students. Currently, the

Alumni Relations Centre manages a total of 10 scholarships that are still actively sponsored by UPM alumni. Efforts to acquire new scholarships from UPM alumni individually as well as alumni chapters continue to be intensified and have yielded positive results.

In addition, the alumni also carry the trust in developing the university through idea sharing and expertise in various fields that can be utilised. For instance, alumni involvement and contribution in curriculum development is needed and the input given will be considered. The feedback from alumni is to ensure the direction of the study programmes offered by UPM is aligned and meets the

current market. UPM's excellence in agriculture, for example, will continue to be sustained and in line with its strategy for high-tech agriculture which is the aspiration of the university management. Information related to student marketability is also used in driving the excellence of a programme offered. Apart from that, UPM alumni also bear the trust to uphold the university's good name by showing their visibility and expertise both locally and internationally. Therefore, the responsibility of upholding UPM good name is not only when they are UPM students but also after becoming UPM alumni, the role is still interconnected.

As an UPM alumnus, the effort to expand networking is by building networks among other alumni thus creating a high level of competitiveness. The establishment of the Alumni Information System (AIS), a database developed by UPM Alumni Relations Centre, can be used to trace UPM Alumni. This database will not only detect the alumni profiles but can be referred or contacted for specific purposes. In addition, the creation of *UPM Dulu-Dulu Facebook (FB)* page with a membership of more than 10,000 will establish a good network among alumni. Apart from walking down the memory lane in UPM, the page can be used to find out updates of alumni friends based on experience, expertise, and contributions. All information can support other stakeholders such as faculties, students or any party for the purpose of tracing successful alumni. In addition, alumni can also be the liaisons to acquire places for industrial training of other related skills. All information obtained through the Facebook site will help any party build a network to utilise on the expertise of alumni. This will indirectly raise the good name of UPM through the involvement and willingness of alumni to continue contributing back to their alma mater.



Nevertheless, the Alumni Putra Cakna programme which focuses on counselling services, has been successful in providing advisory services among the alumni and UPM staff. Each alumnus will form a specific group in providing these consultative assistance.

In line with that, each UPM alumnus is responsible for building and creating solidarity that is to form bonds and understanding among alumni to return to alma mater by contributing in various ways either in terms of finance, expertise or motivation. For example, COVID-19 has changed the whole landscape of life that demands everyone to adapt to new norms. Those who are unable to adapt during this pandemic season will inevitably face problems. Nevertheless, the Alumni Putra Cakna programme which focuses on counselling services, has been successful in providing advisory services among the alumni and UPM staff. Each alumnus will form a specific group in providing this consultative assistance.



Features



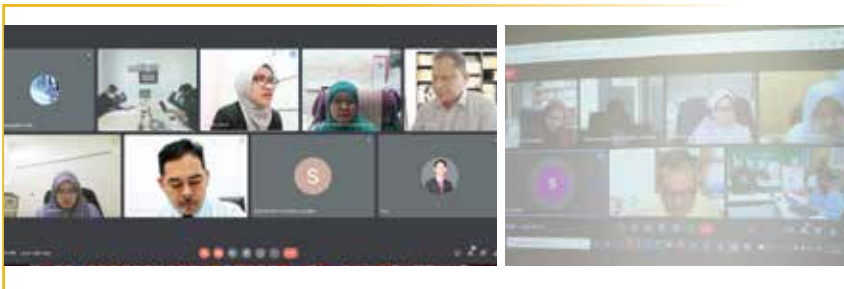
The slogan “We are Proud to be UPM Alumni”, will instil the spirit and solidarity of alumni to provide the best for their alma mater. UPM is the second home for alumni that can be harnessed and explored the potential and capabilities of alumni.

In this regard, each alumnus is a model or icon and an important asset to UPM that can be used as

a benchmark for their respective areas of expertise either at the national or international level. In line with this, a Coffee Table Book will be published which brings together 50 iconic alumni in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The book, produced by Alumni Relations Centre UPM in collaboration with UPM Alumni Association covers alumni who excelled in their respective fields based on identified categories such as academic administrators, entrepreneurs, person with disabilities, and community service. Through the publication of this book, UPM alumni will be used as a reference not only at the national level but also internationally. This will indirectly highlight UPM’s function as an internationally reputable knowledge centre.

UPM’s excellence as a functional knowledge centre in the nation’s higher education ecosystem is also influenced by the values, spirit, and solidarity of its alumni. This is important because every successful alumnus has secrets or specific experiences that can be shared to current active students.

All obstacles are overcome with a strong spirit and challenges for them to succeed. The successes achieved do not come rolling, but demand iltizam (commitment), hard work, sincerity and positive thinking. The information is among the secrets obtained from UPM alumni who are willing to share their stories, experiences and words of encouragement from series of programmes held by the Alumni Relations Centre. Namely, *Sejam Bersama Alumni* (SEBA) programme which was conducted casually featuring selected UPM alumni icons in various disciplines.



In addition, a series of ideas sharing, talks and workshops involving alumni were held. The spirit of togetherness shown by alumni in sharing experiences can be used as input to meet the challenges and efforts to help overcome society’s problems. For example, UPM Prihatin Kit 3K programme involving alumni to ensure UPM visibility by handing over 6600 contribution kits to frontliners and COVID-19 patients at MAEPS, Serdang and Device Assistance and Data Plan to UPM students portrayed the role of alumni.

To ensure the role of UPM which continues to excel as a knowledge centre that contributes to the exploration and sharing of knowledge for the community, UPM alumni need to be in line with UPM vision and mission.



They are UPM ambassadors who can be used as references, benchmarks and the continuation of the programmes offered by UPM. In conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations, it is the reflection of success that we celebrate together. Since its commencement as a university on 29 October 1971, UPM has continued to soar for the past 50 years and crafted numerous recognitions. Through the slogan *Kami Bangga Menjadi Alumni UPM*, the spirit continues to be nourished to make UPM alumni as the driving force for UPM's future excellence.

Based on the slogan 'With Knowledge We Serve', the engagement of alumni as part of UPM excellence hub should be manifested in the form of actions.

skills to come forward to propose solutions that can be considered. Agricultural issues, health issues, well-being and welfare issues are among the issues that demand the attention of UPM alumni to come down and practice all their skills and expertise to assist the community.

Every bit of knowledge, expertise and skills gained while studying in UPM will be improved and applied in life and the real world. The ability to adapt with real ecosystem and environment enables all problems to be properly addressed. For UPM alumni, their responsibility as the dissemination of knowledge agents which assist the community shows their attentiveness to give back to their alma mater. Society is constantly exposed to various difficulties, and they need certain parties with the expertise and

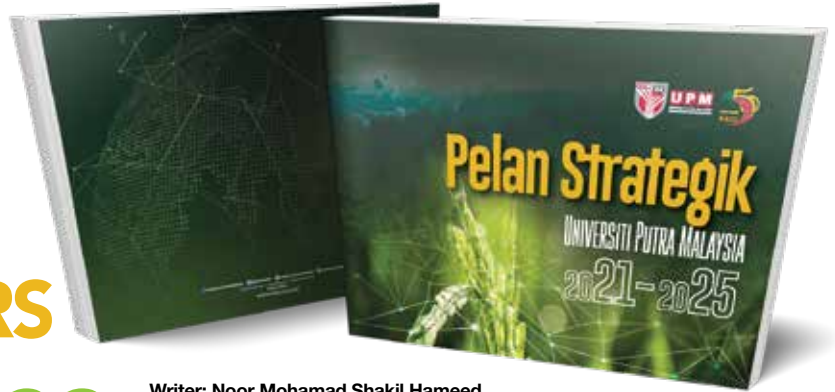
The excellence performance achieved by UPM today is the result of the efforts and contributions from a diversity of groups in transforming the direction of the University in a common track. The solidarity in ensuring UPM is recognised as an internationally reputable knowledge centre is also played by alumni both locally and internationally.

Based on the slogan 'With Knowledge We Serve', the engagement of alumni as part of UPM excellence hub should be manifested in the form of actions.



UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Continuing UPM 50 YEARS of excellence



Writer: Noor Mohamad Shakil Hameed
(Alumni Class 2001, 2010)
Centre for Corporate Strategy and Relations

Introduction

The history of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) began with the establishment of the School of Agriculture Malaya on 21 May 1931 which focused on education in agriculture in Malaya. It was upgraded to College of Agriculture Malaya on 3 June 1947 and finally to a university status in 1971.

Celebrating 50 years golden jubilee as a public university, UPM strived to fulfil its roles and functions providing tertiary education that include teaching and learning, research and development, innovation, commercialization and community services. Thus, the UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (PSUPM) was developed to continue its legacy of excellence, both at local and international levels. In addition to the mentioned roles and functions, PSUPM also emphasises on the excellence in academic and student performances, correctional education, agricultural development, institutional strengthening, values and governance as well as sustainable development.

UPM 50 Years of Excellence

Since 1971, UPM has consistently moving forward with many successes both at the national and international levels. UPM historical thread from 1931 demonstrated the transformation from a small agricultural school which started with only two programmes, namely a three-year diploma programme and one-year certification programme in agriculture to what it is today as one of Malaysia's leading research universities, respected locally and internationally. UPM also contributed significantly to the nation's wealth and development as well as global



human progress. This success is the result of a combination of comprehensive and strategic initiatives which includes contributions from academicians, staff, students and alumni in all disciplines. To date, UPM offers a total of 161 academic programmes in 305 fields of study, in line with the country's development needs, particularly in the field of science and technology and the industrial revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0).

UPM achievements and excellence in the past 50 years can be seen from the following university ranking; The Putra Global Initiative 200 (PG200) quantum leaped UPM to the top 200 universities in the world (based on the QS World University Rankings assessment), ranked 376th in 2014, jumped to 132nd position in

2020. Through this achievement, UPM automatically improved its position at the Asian level, from 76th in 2014 to 33rd position in 2020.

Stakeholder Orientation

The formulation of the strategic plan has taken into account the need for university to uphold the national and global agenda, namely the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (WKB 2030), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 12th Malaysia Plan (12th RMK), National Agro-Food Policy, Malaysia Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025 and International Rating.

To ensure that the strategic plan has mutual values between campus residents and stakeholders, UPM

conducted a public dialogue with all stakeholders: Academicians; Persatuan Pegawai Akademik (PPAUPM), Persatuan Pentadbir UPM (PPUPM), KEPERTAMA, PERMATA and KEPERKASA; Alumni, Industry, stakeholders; and Student Representative Council (Residential College Representative Council, Student Club and Association)

Alumni Role

UPM alumni with a diverse backgrounds and expertise are able to contribute to the success of PSUPM. The university will continue to hold engagement sessions with alumni to obtain views and suggestions in an effort to improve implementations. Alumni are expected to be actively involved by providing feedback



Features

and contribution according to their expertise for the success of this five-year plan. Indeed, alumni have a big role to play in the success of UPM Strategic Plan.

UPM Strategic Plan Success Target 2021-2025

In order to pursue the dream and aspiration to become an internationally reputable university, UPM through the UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 has set five main frameworks of success. The target of these frameworks is based on corporate strategic decisions taking into account the capabilities and expertise available, and the future creations of expertise in tandem with the requirement of that time.

The five frameworks are:

1. Future Talents

- To produce graduates who are competitive in facing the challenges of progress.
- To produce graduates who are holistic, *ihсан* and patriotic.

2. Rating and Internationalisation

- Top 200 in the QS World University Rankings.
- Top 200 in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact World University Rankings.
- Top 30 in QS Asia University Rankings.
- Top 20 UI-Greenmetric World University Rankings.
- 2% of subjects in the Top 100 and 20% of subjects in the Top 200.
- Top 50 by Subject, in the QS World University Rankings for Forestry and Agriculture.
- 5 Stars in QS Rating.
- MyRA and SETARA.

3. High-Tech Agriculture

- Reference Centre for Innovation in Food Securities And Sustainable Plantation.
- Reference Centre for Tropical Agriculture Development.
- As the catalyst for the country's agricultural industry with high technology.

4. Community Well-Being and Prosperity

- An institution of advanced researches.
- Industry and community network concerned about sustainable development.
- Leading in green sustainability practices.
- Research innovation contributing to the nation's wealth.

5. Sustainability Governance

- Expand Smart Campuses and Digitalisation.
- Digitalisation of Financial Support System.
- Financial Advancement through the *Waqf, Zakat* and Endowment.
- Effectiveness of risk management.

UPM Vision and Mission

UPM maintains its vision statement for 2021-2025 UPM Strategic Plan which is 'To Become a University of International Repute'. This vision is relevant and significant with the development and direction of UPM in line with its mission statement 'Providing meaningful contributions to the creation of wealth and development of the nation and the growth of people through exploration and dissemination of knowledge'.

Educational Goals

UPM is committed in moulding students with strong character, resilient and able to face challenges in any circumstances, which is in line with the National Education Philosophy, that is, 'To Produce Graduates Who Are Holistic, *Ihsan*, Patriotic and Resilient'.

Core Values

UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is based on three main core values i.e. *Ihsan*, Diversity and Sustainability.

Ihsan

Ihsan is the core value that shapes the culture of high integrity among UPM staff, such as trustworthiness, fairness, true and transparent, wise, grateful and patience, efficient, fast and accurate, sincere, caring, disciplined, clean, responsible and dedicated.





Diversity

Diversity is defined as the wealth of resources. The diversity of knowledge disciplines, expertise, culture, talents and services supported by quality environment and strong community integration is the basis of strength and uniqueness of UPM. These resources can improve the quality of life, inculcation of knowledge, generate strategic networks for the prosperity of the community and the progress of the country.

Sustainability

UPM recognises the fact that higher education services that have been developed need to be sustainable, relevant to future needs, able to advance knowledge and be able to develop human capital. Therefore, the efforts to develop good governance, inculcate excellence, leverage on diversity, implement innovative management and produce

high impact higher education service initiatives and inculcate green sustainability practices for sustainable development are essential so that UPM continues to contribute to the development of global human capital.

UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 Component

UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is divided into four main components, namely, goals, strategic objectives, performance measurement and key initiatives. Five goals have been identified as the main targets the university plans to achieve by 2025. It sets strategic objectives and performance measurements that evaluate performance for the next five years. The achievement of all these objectives is based on the implementation of key initiatives that have been listed according to strategic objectives.

Each of the key goals, strategic objectives, performance measurements and key initiatives in the UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 translates the significant role of each UPM staff as well as strategic partners including all stakeholders in making a paradigm shift from Ivory Tower to Knowledge Tower.

Conclusion

UPM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 adopts the theme 'Seruan Al-Falah Dari Menara Ilmu' or "The Call of Al-Falah from The Tower of Knowledge" as the foundation of the commitment of the university in upholding knowledge for the development of the nation and well-being of the people. It is also the foundation stone for the university to move forward post-50 years of prominence.

The success of implementing this strategic plan depends on the dedication and commitment of all parties, be it academic officers, non-academic officers, students, industry, alumni or the community. In other words, solidarity and the spirit of belonging for stakeholders is highly demanded in the successful implementation of this strategic plan. Hopefully, this strategic plan will boost UPM's role as a tower of knowledge that echoes the call of *al-Falah* or its true success, namely the world and the hereafter.



Features

The UPM Alumni Association was officially registered with the Registrar of Societies (ROS) on 29th June 1971. Formerly, the association was known as *Persatuan Bekas Siswa Kolej Pertanian Malaya*. The name was later changed to Persatuan Alumni Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (PAUPM) in conjunction with the name change of the alma mater.



Contributions of UPM Alumni Association in

Strengthening Ties with *Alma Mater*

Writer: Rohani Md Yon (Alumni
Class 1972); Najihah Zakaria
(Alumni Class 2019)
UPM Alumni Association

Just like any other alumni associations, PAUPM exists to strengthen the ties between alumni, community and the alma mater and to build a strong alumni network. It is vital to reach alumni wherever they are. Thus, the Association's mission is to bring an effective bonding among alumni and between alumni and the campus community that will result in the generation of various impactful programmes of value to the nation, alma mater, members and students.

Various programmes have been conducted to benefit the alumni and the various campus communities such as social programmes, fund raising, improvement of agricultural knowledge, providing new plant hybrids and recognising excellent students and alumni.

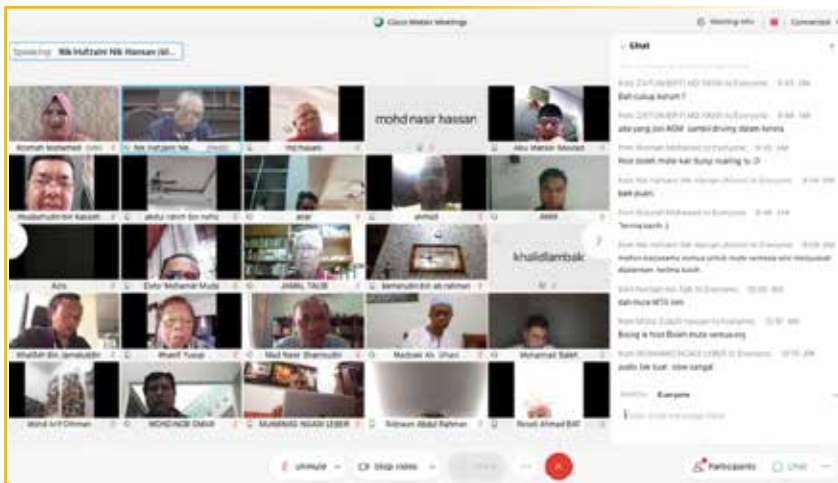
Social Programmes

One of the initiatives taken by PAUPM is organising batch reunions which is greatly appreciated by the alumni. This social programme has been on-going ever since the formation of PAUPM and will be continued in the years to come.

Another social activity which is being actively organised by PAUPM is through sports especially golf. Golf is one of the sport activities which closely bond members of the Association. This sport allows members, old and new, to interact socially and PAUPM organises the yearly Golf Tournament in and outside Serdang.

Fund Raising

PAUPM is also actively involved in fund raising in recognition of the needs of the less fortunate alumni and college students. The Tabung Amal Suria was launched to collect funds for food assistance programmes to be extended to college students in need. Through this programme, food packages will be distributed to the needy students so that they will



not go hungry. Meanwhile, The *Tabung Alumni Prihatin* provides assistance to the less fortunate alumni. This programme is able to help unfortunate alumni who are in need of financial assistance.

To encourage and promote advancement in education, research and spread of knowledge and programme development in UPM, PAUPM launched Yayasan Pak Rashid in November 2000. This is a non-profit organisation which provides social services to college students and campus community. The organisation also collects funds to be given as scholarships to needy students.

Improvement in Agricultural Knowledge

PAUPM also encourages the spreading and improvement in agricultural knowledge among agricultural enthusiasts by organising seminars and workshops in agriculture. With broad areas of knowledge and expertise, the Alumni easily organised this event since there is a large pool of experts in agriculture in PAUPM. Workshops and seminars which give great impact towards agriculture development in the country have been organised. These include workshops such as the National Coconut Workshop 2016, Virgin Coconut Oil, High Value Farming and Samporna Hybrid Coconut.

Seminars and workshops are also conducted in collaboration with other government agencies such as MARDI, DOA and other private sectors. Such collaboration had been conducted with MARDI Perlis on rebranding of Harumanis Mangoes in Perlis. Collaboration with the private sector has been done with companies such as Explore Agenda Sdn. Bhd. by organising workshops for palm oil plantation which explores various aspects of oil palm cultivation and management. Such workshops include the Oil Palm Agronomic Practices, Managing Oil

Features



Palm Plantation for High Yields and Soil Fertility Management. Similar workshops are also conducted for coconut plantation.

Presentation of Awards

One way to maintain a good relationship between PAUPM, its members and UPM students is to recognise the hard work which has been implemented by them. This recognition is translated in the form of awards presentation. PAUPM awarded the Pingat Emas Alumni to outstanding alumni who contributed great effort and time in activities that are beneficial to UPM and the country. Pingat Razlan Putra is given to outstanding UPM student who excel in sport and study.

Support UPM Activities

PAUPM also assists UPM in achieving its objectives towards excellence and global recognition in education, research and services. When the Ministry of Agriculture suggested establishing another agriculture university in Malaysia, PAUPM supported the idea but not the formation of a new university. PAUPM proposed that UPM should strengthen agricultural studies by setting up the School of

Agriculture. Teaching of all aspects of agriculture education will be done under this school.

Great concern is also given to UPM land meant for research and training. When the government wanted to take 300 acres of UPM land for development of rail tracks for high speed train from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore, PAUPM greatly protested the idea by writing to the Prime Minister and saved the land from being taken over by the rail tracks.

Business Venture

With limited funding, it is imperative for an NGO to manage all funds in a careful manner and maintain sustainable to use of finance. Hence, PAUPM formed a subsidiary company called Bestari Serdang Sdn. Bhd. and registered this company with Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM). The main objective of this company is to generate income that will enable the Association to plan and organise more activities on a more regular basis. Currently, Bestari Serdang is the sole importer for a new variety of coconut seedlings, Sampoorna hybrid, from India. This coconut hybrid is currently in demand by the coconut plantation in Malaysia.

The setting up of the Astana Putra Restaurant is another business venture conducted by PAUPM. This restaurant is strategically located up near the Faculty of Agriculture and suitable for conducting wedding buffets, luncheon and dinner. The restaurant is also open to the public and serves a variety of menu suitable for breakfast, lunch and dinner.





UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
BERILMU BERBAKTI



UPM Prihatin

Bantuan Peranti dan Plan Data Pelajar



DANA SUMBANGAN DARIPADA TABUNG 1A1SR (1 ALUMNI 1 SUMBANGAN RINGGIT)
Terima Kasih kepada penyumbang

PUSAT PERHUBUNGAN ALUMNI (ARCUPM) • PUSAT PENGURUSAN WAKAF, ZAKAT DAN ENDOWMEN (WAZAN) •
BAHAGIAN HAL EHWAL PELAJAR (BHEP) • PERSATUAN ALUMNI (PAUPM) • BURSAR

Dr. Syed Omar Syed Rastan

an Exemplary Fertilizer Manufacturer

Writer: Prof. Dr. Shamshuddin Jusop

Family Background

One of the successful Bumiputra entrepreneurs in fertilizer business in Malaysia is Dr. Syed Omar Syed Rastan. Dr. Syed Omar with his brother (Dato' Syed Osman Syed Rastan) started a company to produce fertilizers in 1998. The name of the company was Diversatech Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd., henceforth referred to as Diversatech Fertilizer. As the name suggests, the company is involved in manufacturing and sale of many kinds of fertilizers that are used to enhance and sustain agricultural production in Malaysia or even abroad.

not only in academic activities (research innovation), but also as an agriculture entrepreneur. For all we know, Dr. Syed Omar's motivation and style in conducting his fertilizer enterprise can be emulated by others in the country, especially among the UPM alumni involving with agriculture.



Dr. Syed Omar (left) and Dato' Syed Osman (right) who in 1998 started a fertilizer manufacturing company in Kajang

Dr. Syed Omar's father passed away when he was still young. Even at that tender age, he already understood very well what life was all about and/or poverty means. To him getting good education in relevant fields of knowledge (e.g. science, agriculture, business, etc.) is probably one of the ways to get out of the problems he and the family members were facing with. Needless to say, government's help and support are necessary to get things going.

It is human nature that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. Considering dire situation Syed Omar was in, he had to do what had to be done to achieve the dream of becoming the man that we see him today. In any business venture worldwide, making a mistake is rather common, but a solution has to be immediately found before it goes out of control. Those are among the hallmarks of his achievements and successes in academia and business.

Fertilizer manufacturing by Diversatech Fertilizer has expanded over the years with business extended to the Indonesian market in recent years. Dr. Syed Omar is a UPM alumnus. The university is very proud of his achievements and successes

Acquiring necessary knowledge at home and abroad

Young Syed Omar went to UPM to continue his further education after finishing school. The interest in agriculture would open new opportunities for him to excel in education related to fertilizer manufacturing that contributes to nation building. New talents and expertise are needed to enhance and sustain agricultural production in the country. After graduating from the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM with B. Agric. Sci. degree in 1983, Syed Omar got a job with UPM to take up the position of a tutor in the Faculty of Agriculture with the intention of getting an opportunity to continue for post graduate studies overseas.

Syed Omar went to the University of Georgia, Athens, United States on scholarship to study at MS level under the supervision of the renowned soil scientist, Professor M. E. Sumner. The world-class US academic taught him what academia was all about. The world of academia is unique in the sense that the tenured staff not only have to be hardworking, but also are disciplined persons with the highest degree of integrity. In essence, the training in US made Syed Omar what he is today - i.e. a true-blue and successful entrepreneur with a high degree of discipline in the conduct of his business with partners and clients.

For PhD, Syed Omar headed towards the United States again. This time around his thesis was supervised by an equally competent and discipline academic in the University of Missouri. His supervisor, Professor James Brown, was once working with the US Army.

Professor James Brown was no doubt very tough to deal with, but kind and considerate. The good professor believed in earnest that "Time is of the essence". Syed Omar had to be on full alert at all time on the progress of his PhD research. He understood exactly what he was doing and completed all job on schedule as stated in the research proposal agreed upon.

With the excellent education, either in Malaysia or overseas, Dr. Syed Omar was ready to serve the nation as an academic of substance. Universiti Putra Malaysia and the students of the up and coming agricultural university in Southeast Asia stood to benefit immensely from his vast experiences and knowledge gathered during the overseas training.

An Established Researcher in Agriculture

Equip with MS degree (the minimum degree required for a tenured staff in Malaysian universities), Syed Omar was appointed as a lecturer in the Department Land Management, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. The subjects assigned to him were those related to soil fertility and management that he was good at, being the former student of Professor Sumner of the University of Georgia. Further education on these subjects at PhD level was obtained from Professor Brown of the University of Missouri. By then he had planted the seeds on an academic career that lasted for many years till he left UPM to start a fertilizer business.

Based on the excellent record for teaching, research and public services, Dr. Syed Omar was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in 2003. In 2004, the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, appointed him as the Deputy Dean in charge of development. He was assigned by the university to lead the construction of the newly approved Agro-bio Complex where the current Faculty of Agriculture Campus now majestically stands.

For all intents and purposes, he usually worked in a team with other academics, either from UPM or outside the Serdang Campus. Together with Malaysian or foreign students registered for MS and/or PhD, the innovative research team tried to provide practical solutions to the problems facing agriculture in the country. One of the remarkable successes was the solution to the problem related to "weedy rice" that significantly reduced rice yield. It seems that what was offered by him to the agricultural fraternity in Malaysia really made the difference.

A special chemical formulation named ZAPPA® to tackle the said "weedy rice" problem won praise from farmers and agronomists in Malaysia. Dr. Syed Omar won an award for the innovation. Later on, the team introduced a chemical formulation named VITA-GROW® PLUS that enhanced crop growth. He had thus set a high standard of introducing fertilizer formulations required for agriculture that are made easily available at the marketplace.

Contributions

When and Where It All Began?

Although facing difficulties he moved on with the necessary work and was able to cross the hurdle. Note that through the years his company was able to overcome the main challenges of fertilizer manufacturing with hard work, determination, dedication and good luck. Syed Omar sailed through in education and in the end is able to achieve what he had been dreaming for all this while, i.e. to be a successful entrepreneur in the field he is good at, which is something to do with agriculture. Together with his equally competent partner in UPM, Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanif (also a UPM alumnus), Dr. Syed Omar moved on. With an eye for detail in the research he was conducting, Syed Omar was able to produce innovative fertilizer formulations suitable for application on soils to sustain agriculture not only in Malaysia, but also Indonesia.

Working with a clear vision and goal as well as understanding exactly what he is looking for in life are the hallmarks of Dr.

**Diversatech Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd.
Headquarters in
Bangi, Selangor**



Syed Omar's successes and achievements, either in R&D or business. With his brother, Dato' Syed Osman Syed Rastan, Dr. Syed Omar started in earnest the operation of Diversatech Fertilizer on December 8, 1998 with an office in Kajang, Selangor. For all we know, this is a business in Malaysian scenario like no other.

In the beginning it was tough to get things going. However, with gut, confidence, determination and dedication, the fertilizer business sailed through with sophistication and splendour. In the end, the company has grown in style and stature by leaps and bounds to become the envy of many in the country. For UPM alumni, the take home message

is very clear - honesty, hard work and determination pay in the long run. In every practical sense, this happens in whatever business ventures they are involved with.

Diversatech Fertilizer was established in 1998 by Dato' Syed Osman and Dr. Syed Omar, both are equally business-minded. The company's main goal is to focus on production and development of high end fertilizers meant for tropical crops - rice, oil palm, rubber and local fruits. The fertilizer manufacturing company has set a novel standard of corporate accomplishment by producing high quality fertilizers with balanced macro- and micronutrients to sustain crop growth and/or production. Besides, Diversatech Fertilizer provides expertise to farmers and growers on fertilizer recommendation based on soil and foliar analysis. Using the state-of-the-art facilities available in the company, coupled with knowledge and experiences gained over the years, Diversatech Fertilizer is able to fulfil the need of the farming communities in the country.

Diversatech Fertilizer started by manufacturing a chemical formulation to help sustain rice production in Peninsular Malaysia, followed by producing fertilizers for other important crops. Among the earliest products produced by the company are:



Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanif in action



Dr. Syed Omar with his former colleague in UPM (Dr. Shamshuddin) at his office in Bangi, Selangor

Fertilizers produced by Diversatech Fertilizer

1. ZAPPA® - A SPECIAL CHEMICAL FORMULATION TO HELP ALLEVIATE WEEDY RICE PROBLEM

In recent years, weedy rice infestation commonly occurred in Peninsular Malaysia that may reduce rice yield by as much as 75%. As such, the government's aspiration to obtain rice yield of up to 10 t/ha/season could not be fulfilled. Diversatech Fertilizer was able come up with a solution to the problem by introducing a special chemical formulation named ZAPPA®.

ZAPPA® (i.e. Zap Padi Angin) is specially formulated for rice seed treatment under Malaysian conditions. It works by enhancing rapid seed germination in direct seeding rice grown under aerobic and anaerobic systems. Seedlings from ZAPPA® treated rice seeds are known to have significant improvement in their root and shoot growth. The seedlings are found to have grown vigorously under anaerobic conditions. Due to treatment with ZAPPA®, the germination of the untreated weedy rice seeds already present in the soils is somewhat delayed or even suffocated/died. In this way, the problem of weedy rice affecting yield in the country can be greatly reduced or even eliminated. This is the innovation ingrained in ZAPPA® that helps enhance rice production in the country, which in the end secure rice supply and stabilize food security.



ZAPPA® that can alleviate weedy rice problem



VITA-GROW® PLUS that enhances crop growth

2. VITA-GROW® PLUS - A SPECIAL CHEMICAL FORMULATION TO ENHANCE CROP GROWTH

VITA-GROW® PLUS is a foliar fertilizer containing complete and balanced plant nutrients. It is enriched with plant growth regulators, non-ionic adjuvant and organically-bound micronutrients, which are stable upon storage or when mixing with pesticides.

3. OTHER FERTILIZERS PRODUCED FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKET



Several types of fertilizers produced by Diversatech Fertilizer at its manufacturing plant in West Port, Klang

Besides ZAPPA® and VITA-GROW® PLUS, Diversatech Fertilizer sitting on a 6-acre (2.5 ha) site in West Port, Klang, Malaysia is now producing many types of fertilizers to cater to the need of Malaysia or even the Indonesian market. These are the fertilizers for the cultivation of oil palm, rubber, rice and tropical fruits (nutrition or disease prevention/curing). In other words, Diversatech Fertilizer is a comprehensive fertilizer manufacturing company. UPM is very proud of Dr. Syed Omar, an alumnus of the university, for being such a high achiever.

Contributions

Diversatech Fertilizer's strategic partners

Nobody in R&D or business works in isolation to get things going. As such, Diversatech Fertilizer requires strategic partners in its R&D programs, testing of products and to enhance the efficiency in fertilizer production. Dr. Syed Omar understand fully the necessity of having research with business partners. The company works in collaboration with:

1. UPM. This is where Dr. Ahmad Husni comes in. While Dr. Syed Omar resigned from UPM to take care of the company, Dr. Ahmad Husni continued with the R&D in UPM. He used PhD or MS students to carry out R&D paid by Diversatech Fertilizer - this is a win-win situation for both interested parties. In this way, the company gets what it wants (the solution to the problems it is facing), while UPM gains reputation as a research institution via product promotion and research publications in reputed international journals. Furthermore, patents coming out of the R&D are shared based on the terms and conditions stated in the agreement signed by the both parties;
2. PT ALIF RAYA INDONESIA. This is for marketing and registering fertilizer products in Indonesian market;

3. EURAGGLO FRANCE. For consultation and purchasing high tech equipment in the running of the manufacturing plant in West Port, Klang;
4. FGVASSB. Joint research for the development and production of Slow Release Organic Fertilizer for Malaysian market (JITU® SROF); and
5. FELCRA BERHAD. FELCRA is currently the major shareholder of the company. Expertise from FELCRA in management and finance is required to keep the company going in the long run. FELCRA can buy cheaper fertilizer from Diversatech Fertilizer (FELCRA subsidiary).

Academic awards and recognition

Dr. Syed Omar won the prestigious National Academic Personality 2008 for his breakthrough creation that helped sustain rice production using the innovative ZAPPA®. ZAPPA® had won 3 academic awards at scientific exhibitions, either held in Malaysia or overseas: 1) Gold Medal for Invention & Research Exhibition Awards (2002) in UPM; 2) Silver Medal for Invention and Innovation Exhibition, Ministry of Science,

Technology and Environment of Malaysia (2002); and 3) Silver Medal from the 32nd International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products in Geneva, Switzerland (2004).

A fertilizer manufacturer that cares

Diversatech Fertilizer was established to focus on production and development of high technology fertilizer for tropical crops. In more than 20 years of its journey, the company has set a high standard of fertilizer manufacturing, equivalent in standing to that of the international brands. Among its corporate strategy is to offer fertilizer recommendation to the farming communities. With their vast knowledge and passion, its scientific personnel contribute to the advancement of agriculture in Malaysia via the following activities:

1. Extension services provided by Diversatech Fertilizer include fertilizer recommendation for rice, durian, fruit crops, oil palm and rubber cultivation to sustain their production in the long run;

Winning an award from the government for excellent service to the nation via research innovation in 2008



Dr. Syed Omar was making a point on how to enhance agricultural production in Malaysia



A farmer's field where R&D on rice production is conducted



Helping farmers to enhance durian production

2. Visit the fertilizer manufacturing plant in West Port, Klang; and
3. From time to time visitors from government agencies or private plantations in the country pay a visit to its manufacturing facilities in West Port, Pulau Indah in Klang. Guests are usually brought to see what are going on in the plant. The company officials would give a run-down of the processes taken place in fertilizer manufacturing. A visit to the plant is worth the effort taken for travel to the site because visitors learn the art of fertilizer manufacturing within a short time. Besides, visitors can ask questions on anything they want to know about fertilizer production, business or the like.



Diversatech Fertilizer manufacturing plant in West Port, Pulau Indah in Klang, Selangor

UPM Alumni Office representative (Nik Hafzaini) giving a souvenir to Dr. Syed Omar at his office in Bangi



Planning for future growth

Business should not stay stagnant in terms of growth and product quality has to be at the highest possible level. The management of Diversatech Fertilizer understands that fully and is now working hard to keep the business intact and to sustain it in the long run. When asked about the future of the company during the interview at his office, Dr Syed Omar mentioned that the corporate strategy of the company was very clear to everyone. The company was built to last. Therefore, the management has to do the necessary to keep it going:

1. Have to know exactly the problems faced by farmers/growers - soil fertility, nutrient status in soils, crop requirements, fertilizer types;
2. Understand the mechanisms - to find out what are going on in soils and plants;
3. Cost of fertilizers at the marketplace - farmers' affordability is very important;
4. Factory efficiency and productivity - the right kinds of fertilizers should be available when they are needed by farmers;
5. Excessive fertilizer application should be avoided - this involves the cost of crop production, environmental issues are important consideration in agriculture;
6. Competition in fertilizer industry is very tough - need to know the market well;
7. Set up R&D laboratory in the company - for fertilizer formulation, testing of product quality, field trials and provide extension services; and
8. Brand is crucial to the survival of a company, the name of the producer is affected by the quality of its products. So, product quality has to be maintained at all cost.

Food Security in Malaysia beyond Pandemic

Writer: Datin Paduka Dr. Fatimah Mohamed Arshad
Amal Putra, Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security



Introduction Systems View on Food Security

The recent COVID-19 pandemic¹ has exposed the true colours of Malaysia's food security status. The series of prolonged Movement Control Orders (MCOs)² full or partial lockdowns brought damaging impact to the economy in terms of slow growth, loss of jobs and hence income to the people. Food insecurity situation is severely disproportional among the badly hit urban poor compared to the other low income earners.

This implies the country's food system is not resilient enough to absorb deficit shock and tends to victimise the marginalised. WHO (World Health Organisation) warns that coronavirus vaccine alone may not end the pandemic and the society cannot go back to the way things were³. This would mean that the society has to live with the new normal⁴ for a long time until herd immunity is achieved. Against this backdrop, food insecurity needs to be addressed urgently to avoid hardship among the poor and future losses of quality human resources.

1. The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic was first detected in Malaysia on 25 January 2020 which lasted till the time of writing (www.kkm.gov.my)

2. The first lockdown was implemented on 18th - 31st March 2020, followed a series of MCOs.

3. Forbes (2020)

4. New normal refers to a new way of living, work and interactions with other people in the hope that the society will achieve herd immunity, where a population is sufficiently immune to a certain infectious disease. The new normal include practices such as wearing face mask, physical distancing, increase sanitation, temperature checking and contact tracing among others (www.kkm.gov.my).



Food availability refers to the “supply side” of the food security. The determinants of food supply are: food production, stock levels of food and trading of food.

To reset the country's future food security agenda, its framework has to be understood in the right perspective. According to the World Food Summit in 1996⁵, “food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life⁶”. This definition has been the framework of reference on food security policy worldwide. The stated framework defines four main dimensions of food security, namely, food availability, accessibility and utilisation and stability or a harmonious co-existence of the three dimensions⁷.

Food availability refers to the “supply side” of the food security. The determinants of food supply are: food production, stock levels of food and trading of food.

Food accessibility refers to access by individuals to adequate resources or (entitlements⁸) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices which can ensure accessibility.

Food utilisation refers to adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care that can reach a state of nutritional well-being where all human physiological needs are met⁹. The determinants of food utilisation include non-food inputs in food production (fertiliser and chemicals), dietary behaviour and availability and access to food among the population.

Stability refers to a harmonious co-existence of the other three dimensions to ensure a sustainable food security over time and space. In other words, the three dimensions must be fulfilled simultaneously as one cannot function without the other. For instance, a country is considered food insecure if it has inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking the nutritional status of the population. Other challenges include adverse weather conditions, political instability or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices).

The above definition implies that food security is not a linear SOP or standard operating procedure where it should be done in accordance to some numerical steps. Instead the four dimensions are interconnected in a feedback loop manner where a change in one dimension will affect the other. For instance, disruption in food production (due to COVID-19) affects accessibility and naturally reduces the nutrition quality of the households. In other words, food security is a food system which comprises the four dimensions (with their determinants) that are interlinked in a causal loop. A simplified systems view of food insecurity under pandemic is depicted in Figure 1.

5. World Food Summit 1996, Rome Declaration on World Food Security.
 6. FAO (2008)
 7. FAO (2016)
 8. Op. cit. Entitlements are defined as Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources)
 9. FAO (2008).

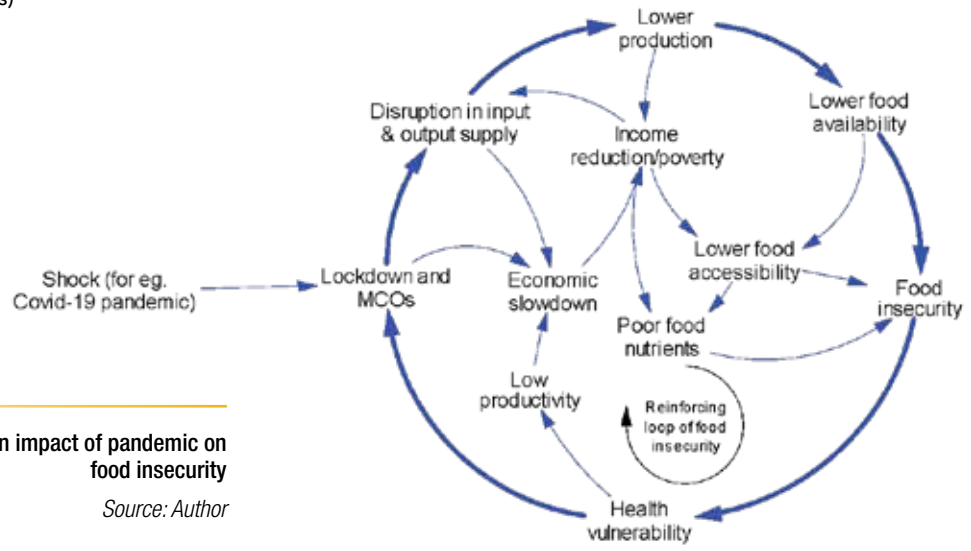


Figure 1: Systems view on impact of pandemic on food insecurity
 Source: Author

Contributions

A shock into the food system such as COVID-19 led to MCOs which caused economic slowdown and restrictive area movements can trigger severed input movements such as labour and fertilizer which affected production and hence food availability and food insecurity. The resultant income losses affect accessibility to food. This in turn affects the quality of nutrients intake particularly among mothers and children. The poor health of the people may affect productivity which slows down production in the economy. With the same circular argument, this results in food insecurity. Unhealthy population may increase COVID-19 cases as well as food insecurity. The darker lines indicate the major reinforcing feedback loop between the impact of pandemic on food insecurity. If the pandemic worsens, the circle of food insecurity continues emulating the vicious circle of poverty archetype.

Impact of Pandemic on Food Security

The devastating impact of COVID-19 on the economy of the urban poor was uncovered by studies carried out by UNICEF¹⁰. The study found that 60% of the flat dwellers under the study experienced 40% reduction on monthly income with an average of RM1,650 per month¹¹. A quarter of head of the households were unemployed under MCO. These have affected their financial capability in accessing quality food for the family. The food expenditure revealed a rather unhealthy diet. On average, the households consumed more eggs (+50%), rice (+40%), and instant noodles (+40%), and less on snacks and sweets (-62%) and fruits (-40%). The study also reported low dairy and meat consumption due to high price

of these items. Food accessibility under crisis is weak among the population. Bank Negara study (2015) indicated that more than half of Malaysian population could not raise RM1,000 to cope with crisis and one-third stated that they could only cover a week's worth of expenses, at most, should they lose their source of income¹². About three-quarters of flat dwellers were unable to save and buy adequate food¹³.

Even before the pandemic, UNICEF¹⁴ and Ministry of Health¹⁵ estimated that one in five children and one in four children in Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur were stunted respectively¹⁶. Other states such as Kelantan (about 30%), Terengganu and Pahang (26%), Perak, Sabah and Sarawak (24%). The pandemic may have worsened this problem further.

On the other hand, Malaysia has the highest prevalence of obesity among adults in Southeast Asia at 15.6%, followed by Brunei (14.1%), Thailand (10%) and Indonesia (6.9%)¹⁷. The National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019 findings, showed that half of Malaysian adults were either overweight or obese - 30.4% were overweight and 19.7% obese¹⁸. The NHMS 2019 data also revealed that the overweight and obesity levels were particularly high among women (54.7%), ethnic Indians (63.9%) and those in

the 55 to 59 age group (60.9%). According to WHO, the lockdown has increased the obesity worldwide due to inactivity. The above evidence points to the asymmetric and differential impact of food insecurity among Malaysian population. The divide is apparently disproportional between the haves and have nots.

Food Security Status in Malaysia

The pandemic has placed Malaysia in the 43rd position in food security status 2020, down from 28th in 2019 while Singapore was reduced from 1st position to 19th in the said period¹⁹. Malaysia secured a relatively high position compared to Thailand (51st), Indonesia (65th) Vietnam (63rd) and Philippines (73rd). Despite the relatively high position above her neighbours, almost 90% of the paddy farmers in the country are under B40 group²⁰. This indicate that livelihood of the farmers is not in the priority list of the index.

Malaysia uses self-sufficiency level²¹ (SSL) as a gross proxy to indicate the food security situation. With the exception of poultry eggs and meat and pork meat which show SSLs above 100% the rest indicate a declining trend in the last three decades despite five agricultural policy documents²² (Figure 2). These data suggest that the consumption is growing faster than local production. The determinants of consumption are population growth, increase in income and changing lifestyle.

19. Global Food Security Index, 2019 and 2020

20. Ministry of Agriculture (2019).

21. SSL is defined as the ratio of production over Production + Import ± Stock - Export (MAFI, 2020).

22. Ministry of Agriculture (various years). The agricultural policies include; National Agricultural Policy or NAP 1 (1994), NAP II (1992-2010), NAP III (1998-2010), Agrofood Policy (2011- 2020) and Agriculture Chapter under Economic Transformation Programme, PEMANDU (2010)..

10. UNICEF (2019 and 2020)

11. UNICEF (2020). For household of 5.8 members and children 2.5.

12. Bank Negara Malaysia (2015).

13. UNICEF (2020).

14. UNICEF (2020)

15. Kementerian Kesihatan(Ministry of Health) (2016)

16. UNICEF (2019) (also reported the body weight of each individual among 10 children is much less)

17. KMM (2015). National Health and Morbidity Survey.

18. Op. Cit. Body Mass Index (BMI) is a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in metres. Based on the classification from the Malaysian Clinical Practice Guidelines of Obesity (2004), BMI was classified into 6 categories; underweight (<18.50 kg/m²), normal (18.50 - 22.99 kg/m²), overweight (23.00 - 27.49 kg/m²), obese I (27.50 - 34.99 kg/m²), obese II (35.00 - 39.99) and obese III (>40 kg/m²).

The influx of immigrant workers estimated at 3.14 mn in 2019²³ have partially contributed to an increase in demand for food, particularly rice.

²³ Dept of Statistics, Malaysia (2020). The single biggest category in the country's general labour workforce is made up of foreigners who accounted for 38.1 per cent of the total in 2018, according to, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

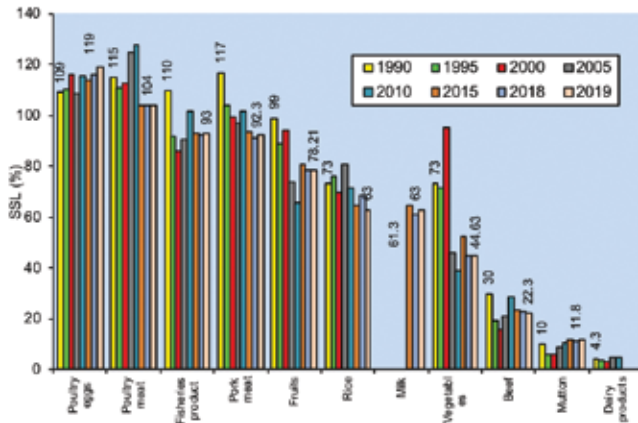


Figure 2: Self-sufficiency levels of selected food commodities (%), selected years

Note: Data for dairy products after 2015 and milk before 2015 are not available respectively.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrobased Industries for data before 2018 and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry for 2019 and National Agricultural Policy II for 1990s data.

Import fills the production - consumption food gap. As shown in Figure 3, as of 2019, the food deficit stood at RM17.4 bn compared to RM18.6 bn in 2018. Malaysia has always been in deficit in food trade (since 1950s) due to higher import growth relative to export. Besides imported labour, Malaysia also imports most of input items such as seeds, breeds, feeds for livestock (including soya beans), fertilisers, pesticides, agricultural machineries and parts. As shown in Figure 3, the import value of fertilises was RM3.48 bn (deficit RM784 mn), animal feed (import value RM5.9 bn, deficit RM3.9 bn). The highest import value is cereals RM7.2 bn (soya bean and rice) with deficit of RM3.6 bn.

The above data clearly show Malaysia's imbalance food policy priority i.e., would rather import rather than develop local capacity. Dependence on import has two major consequences. First, it caused increases in local cost of production particularly those that are fossil-fuel based such as fertilises. Second, an outflow of foreign exchange to pay for the foreign labour and imported items. This means that the local earnings are not reinjected into the industry for further growth which leaves small margin to producers. With limited improvement in local food productivity and totally dependence on import (both output and input), it is no wonder that food industry exhibits slow growth in the last five decades.

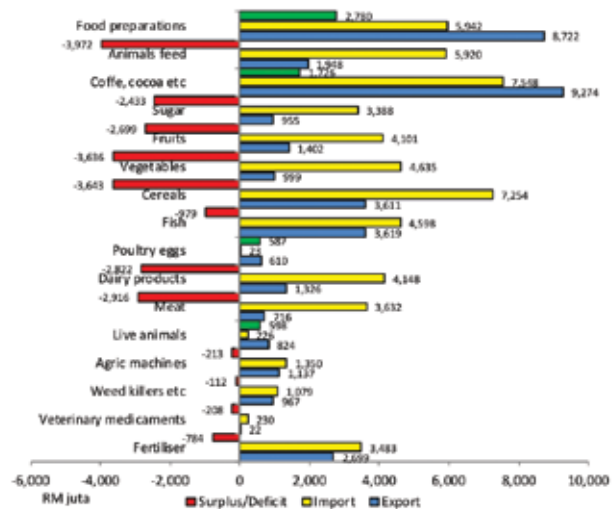


Figure 3: Food and agricultural input balance of trade, 2019 (RM mn)

Source: MAFI (2020). Agrofood Statistics, 2019.

Conclusions and UPM's Role

Malaysia has strong comparative advantage in terms of natural resources such as land, sunlight, water, biodiversity and biomass (compared to Holland and Israel). Cheaper imports are seen as favourable at the expense of slow growth of local production. Local resources are not fully capitalised to sharpen her competitive advantage which explains her perpetual net importer status since 1950s. The pandemic opens up the vulnerability of the country's food security particularly in victimising the poor.

A number of international agencies such as FAO, IPFRI, IFAD²⁴ had proposed a detailed policy framework towards food security which can be a good reference for Malaysia²⁵ (Appendix I). To ensure a resilient and sustainable food security is to create a virtuous circle of food system as depicted in Figure 4. The major impetus here is the growth-induced policy to increase local production capacity in all dimensions. These include, R&D to improve yield improvement and creation of value addition, infrastructural development, local input production, digitalisation, enhancement of farm institutions and sustainable practices and consumption, among others. The growth-induced policy is meant to improve the local production capacity and agro-ecological practices to ensure resiliency and sustainability. Besides production and institutional development, social safety net is necessary to equip poor consumers during hard times and crisis.

24. IFPRI - International Food Policy Research Institute, IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development

25. Refer to Pingali et al., (2005)

Contributions



Figure 4: Virtuous loop of growth for food security in Malaysia

Source: Author

According to FAO, in developing countries, 80% of the necessary production increases would come from increases in yields and cropping intensity and only 20% from expansion of arable land²⁶. IPFRI and ADB studies indicated investment in R&D gave the highest return in terms of food production and poverty reduction²⁷. In short, the source of food production in the future is through R&D rather than land expansion. Based on the systems view, the R&D will reinforce the food system towards growth, higher production, availability, accessibility and better food and nutrition security (Figure 4). This clearly points to the central role of UPM as the leading public university in agricultural advancement. Besides producing trained agricultural professionals, UPM should be the leading R&D institution that champions advanced technology, digitalisation, sustainable agriculture, mechanisation/automation for small farms, local input production and effective farm institutions (including new extension approach and integrated cooperatives for farmers). UPM should collaborate with MARDI (Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and MAFI (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries) for an integrated as well as stakeholder-centric R&D (particularly producers) and innovations. Participatory research is the means to institute inclusive research with the beneficiaries. There is a dire need for a centre of excellence in extension to reduce the technological gap between the farmers and recent advances and experimental results. Being the only agricultural university in the country, the role of UPM in food R&D is not only indispensable but holds the key on the future of the food security of the country.

²⁶ FAO How to Feed the World in 2050

²⁷ Perez and Rosegrant (2015) and ADB (2019)

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Appendix I: Food security policy and programmes



Source: Pingali et al., (2005)

App.	Availability	Acces and Utilitisation	Stability	Sustainability
Rural Development/Productivity Enhancement	Enhancing food supply to the most vulnerable	Re-establishing rural institutions	Diversifying agriculture and employment	Eco-friendly farm practices
	Improving rural food production especially by small-scale farms	Enhancing access to assets	Monitoring food security and vulnerability	Natural resource management
	Investing in rural infrastructure	Ensuring access to land	Dealing with the structural causes of food insecurity	Zero-food waste
	Investing in rural markets	Reviving rural financial systems	Reintegrating refugees and displaced people	Low carbon/water foot print
	Revitalization of livestock sector	Strengthening the labour market	Developing risk analysis and management	Community-based farming
	Resource rehabilitation and conservation	Mechanisms to ensure safe food	Reviving access to credit system and saving mechanisms	Community-based resource management
	Enhancing income and other entitlements to food	Social rehabilitation programmes		
Direct and Immediate Access to Food	Food Aid	Transfers: Food/ Cash based	Re-establishing social safety nets	
	Seed/input relief	Asset rehabilitation	Monitoring immediate vulnerability and intervention impact	
	Restocking livestock capital	Social rehabilitation programmes	Peace-building efforts	
	Enabling Market Revival	Nutrition intervention programmes		



Contributions

Writer: Suziana Che Wil
Alumni Relations Centre

UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021



The year 2021 is very challenging indeed. Various ordeals are endured in the name of success. This year, UPM celebrated the 50th Golden Jubilee of UPM (1971-2021). Despite the constraints caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to plague the country, efforts to keep the celebration going continued with various endeavours by its members.

UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 is one of the programmes designed to enliven UPM's 50th anniversary celebration in new norms. The categories competed are cycling, walking, running and horse riding. It was virtual event where you can complete your distance anytime and anywhere. Participants can choose from four categories offered which is 50 km with a participation fee of RM60.00. Participants will receive a t-shirt, gold medal, face mask and e-certificate while for 25 km with a participation fee of RM50.00, participants will receive a t-shirt, silver medal and e-certificate. For 10 km participants, they only need to pay a participation fee of RM30.00 and will receive a t-shirt and e-certificate. Finally, for 5 km participants, they only need to pay a participation fee of RM5.00 and will receive an e-certificate.

The Beginning of the Journey to Malaysia Book of Records

In the five months of the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 programme, many twists and turns, as well as experiences, were documented as a sweet memory. The programme drivers, i.e., ARCUPM, in collaboration with Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA), UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) and KDS Apparel have begun the search for the winner for each participation from February to July 2021.

During the programme, participation from UPM alumni is welcomed to enable its success that would surely offer wonderful memories because it was commemorated in the year UPM celebrated its 50 Years Golden Jubilee. In making it an epic programme, mementos and the 50-year

sculpture will be built according to the UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebration logo. The staunch support from the university's top management committee, the Vice-Chancellor of UPM, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, renders the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021, not just an ordinary programme but created a history for UPM.

Collaboration with other associations and troops such as riding, biking and having an icon in the running category makes UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021, full of glorious colours.

VIP Ride x UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021

One of the collaborations that led to the success of UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 was the VIP Ride which was joined by the Royal Malaysia Police Cavalry Unit, The Malaysian Armed Force Equestrian Centre (MAFEC) and the Putrajaya Corporation. This is a joint event with Universiti Putra Malaysia. The event which started from the Equine Unit, University Agriculture Park, UPM and ended at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UPM,

Journey to The Malaysia Book of Records



which is five kilometres away was successfully completed and at the same time recorded participation in UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 for the equestrian category.

50 Years Cycling of UPMCC

Contributing to the success of UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 is also cycling in conjunction with UPM's 50th anniversary from UPM Cycling Club (UPMCC) which has conquered the UPM, Banting, Dengkil, Putrajaya routes and ended at UPM again. The cycling was also joined by the President,

Kesatuan Kakitangan Am Universiti Putra Malaysia (KEPERTAMA), Encik Mohd Razali Singah, with 16 other participants who are all UPM staff and students which have successfully completed the 50 km cycling.

This cycling event also provided glitters to UPM's 50th Golden Jubilee Celebration and also recorded participation in UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 which has contributed to the success of this programme recognised in The Malaysia Book of Records.

A spark of enthusiasm to UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021

Every success that is sketched guaranteed a spark of enthusiasm that pushes in that direction. Similarly, UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 who has made the extraordinary spirit of Mr. Khairul Shazwali Taib (Alumni Class 2012) who face kidney failure as the icon of UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021. He was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2016 at Serdang Hospital.

Contributions



At the time, he was an active person in the sport of rugby, he did not smoke and did not take side medication. At first, he only had pain in his right leg and was initially diagnosed with Gout. Later, he decided to see a doctor and did a blood test. After doing a thorough health check-up which make it all change, a few days after doing the health check-up, he got an emergency call from a doctor and was shocked that he was suffering from end-stage kidney failure and his kidney function was only 9% at that time.

Despite being depressed and a little emotionally disturbed, Shazwali's passion for health never faded. Not wanting to continue to be plagued with emotions, Shazwali rise up looking for alternatives to get back healthy.

After a lot of treatment was done regularly at Serdang Hospital until he got a donor for his new kidney. The surgery was performed in 2018 and the most special thing is the kidney was donated by his own brother.

He is not encouraged to exercise. Yet he cannot just sit quietly waiting to be healthy. The body needs to move and have some activities to be healthy. Through discussions with doctors, Shazwali was advised to do a run with a tube in his body.

Shazwali had a 12 km run with a new kidney during dialysis, taking medication which is on the advice of a doctor. He also participated in the Kuala Lumpur Standard Chartered Marathon (KLSCM) 2020 half marathon. The purpose of his participation in the half marathon is to make people who have undergone kidney transplant surgery aware to continue to be motivated and stay healthy to live a happy life like everyone else.

He has also made run 80 km with a new kidney and is still blowing for the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 Programme and at the same time made him an icon for the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 programme.

With the enthusiasm and perseverance shown by Shazwali, he has indirectly attracted participation from other alumni to make UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 a success together.

The Real Challenge Begins

UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021, as a newly introduced programme, certainly faced problems at first in inviting people to participate. Various questions were raised at the outset.

Undoubtedly, to convince the participants about the transparency of the programme journey is not an easy thing. New and first programmes were held. The real challenge that the organisers must go through is convincing alumni and the general public to participate.

The challenges that need to be faced are also from a technological perspective. Not everyone is proficient in using apps to record run times and so on. The problem can be solved with the help of students who are closer to the world of technology.

In addition, the limitations in communication due to Movement Control Order are also constraints in the success of this programme. Communication is only via phone and WhatsApp to convey any information. But thanks to the cooperation and hard work of all, the problem was successfully resolved.

The target of 6,000 alumni participants is needed to be recognised in The Malaysia Book of Records, which is a large number during the pandemic season and is also conducted virtually. It is not a huge obstacle to achieve if the programme is conducted physically. But admitting defeat is certainly not in the mind.



One of the ways to ensure that this challenge is successfully overcome is to combine cooperation with all parties. Especially with the UPM Alumni Association, through support from other Responsibility Centres (PTJ), Student Associations especially from the Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA), promotion on social media and external media is the main focus to ensure the programme runs smoothly.

The seriousness shown by the organisers of the programme and the monitoring of the achievements of the records held has shown that the movement of the graph of the participation is increasingly encouraging. Promotions on social media are becoming more frequent making the interest of alumni and participants more confident to participate.

One of the media used is Facebook (FB) namely "UPM Dulu-Dulu". On FB "UPM Dulu-Dulu" has a high follower among UPM alumni which is the right platform to promote this programme. It turned out to be a success.

During the five months of this programme, each participant had to submit a running record or any category they participated in, the participation from UPM alumni can be proud of. Together in the success of this programme proves that the pandemic does not stop activities and programmes to be launched. The really important

thing is cooperation and mutual support of each other's efforts. The objective of the programme is to bring alumni back to devotion to the alma mater has been achieved.

The Malaysia Book of Records in Your Hand

August 6, 2021, became the sacred date to be remembered by the alumni who participated in the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 when for the first time, the virtual programme was acknowledged in the Malaysia Book of Records.

The success of acquiring the largest participation of 6,203 university alumni has qualified the event to be commended as the largest participation record in a university alumni fitness event in the Malaysia Book of Records (MBR). A commendable accomplishment to the members of UPM. More important from the establishment and success of this programme is the collaborative stint demonstrated by the Menteri Besar of Selangor via the Menteri Besar Incorporated for sponsoring the UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 Programme and simultaneously realising the construction of the 50 Years of UPM sculpture. The sponsoring also attracted more alumni to participate in the programme. The involvement of the alumni in each organised programme revealed their togetherness to equally assist UPM members and students, especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the cooperation and joint efforts regardless of constraints and situational pressure, finally, a programme that may have been initially deemed ordinary has yielded an extraordinary outcome. The slogan "We Proud to be UPM Alumni" became the sacred mantra that initiated a sense of belonging and love of the alma mater to return and serve.

The UPM Alumni Golden Fit 2021 programme, has provided a valuable experience to those directly involved. Succeeding the programme in a new environment which is completely online, teaches a lot of new things.

Certainly, through the organisation of this programme, we learn a new thing which is technology can change the world and we need to keep pace with technology to continue to remain relevant in every field!

One of the media used is Facebook (FB) namely "UPM Dulu-Dulu". On FB "UPM Dulu-Dulu" has a high follower among UPM alumni which is the right platform to promote this programme. It turned out to be a success.

Alumni Scholarship

Realising

Hope and Success

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



After their graduation, the ties between alumni and their alma mater does not end. In many ways, alumni may contribute and give back to their alma mater. Giving back could be in terms of sharing their knowledge, experience, expertise, or even in the form of monetary transaction. In terms of giving back in monetary means, Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) has initiated Alumni Scholarship where alumni are the main sources of contributors. ARCUPM welcomes alumni to give back to alma mater by providing financial support to future generation scholars.

Alumni Scholarship is a brand which is developed to provide opportunity for alumni to join forces with their alma mater in providing creative and innovative educational experiences. Furthermore, that will enhance the university eminence. The alumni donations will be utilised by UPM Alumni Contribution Fund for the purpose of providing students' scholarship and financial assistance. To manifest this, to-date, ARCUPM managed to obtain seven current scholarships and in addition of five new scholarships in 2021.

The duration of scholarship, and amount of scholarship per student are customised upon alumni requirements, such as, targeted programmes, mode of programmes either diploma, bachelor or masters, for targeted students who are normally from the B40 and poor (*asnaf*) background. The scholarship providers are from personal contributors, company or a group of alumni who collected fund for the scholarship.

Among the current scholarship providers are Yayasan Pak Rashid, Soh Kim Mee Scholarship, Amco Niaga Scholarship, Yayasan Said Scholarship, Cuckoo Scholarship, Felcra Berhad Scholarship, Chapter Cyperus'92 Scholarship. Latest scholarship obtained in 2021 includes Agrisc'94 Scholarship, Menteri Besar of Selangor Scholarship, Alumni Kolej Tiga Scholarship, and Pertubuhan Kebajikan Salak Scholarship (Salak Association Welfare Scholarship).

This article is dedicated to the former recipients of the Alumni Scholarship programme for a simple sharing of their pre and post-scholarship interview experience, how the scholarships helped and supported them. They expressed warm wishes to the sponsors, and ARCUPM, in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



Soh Kim Mee Scholarship

Alumni Relations Centre UPM has been entrusted to manage Soh Kim Mee Scholarship in 2016. The contribution was made by prominent alumni, Dato' Soh Poh Sheng, Chairman of Samsony Group based in Johor Bharu. He is UPM alumni, class of 1976. Dato' Soh Poh Sheng agreed to contribute RM1 million value of scholarship, named after his late father Soh Kim Mee. This scholarship sponsors one bachelor student and one Diploma in Agricultural Sciences programme annually to eligible students. In this article, we managed to interview three Soh Kim Mee Scholarship recipients.



Hairi Ali
Diploma in Agriculture
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Alumni Class 2019

Hairi Ali was a Soh Kim Mee Scholarship recipient for 2016 to 2019 session. He was excited to be called for the scholarship interview after wishfully applying for it. At first, he was anxious due to the number of applicants and the questions by the interviewers were quite challenging. Despite the tough questions, he managed to answer them orderly and well throughout the interview session as he had made some preparations for it. Upon receiving the news he had been qualified for the offered the scholarship, no words could not describe his gratefulness.

The scholarship helped him ease his financial burden where he never had to think about saving money for the study fees and day to day cost of living in campus throughout his studies. Moreover, the scholarship acted as a catalyst for a greater success as it motivated him to achieve good grades in his studies. "I have been looking forward to this moment, for which I would like to thank the scholarship contributors and the organisers for choosing me as the recipient of the scholarship which had benefitted me greatly," he quoted.

The recipient also wished to meet Dato' Soh Poh Sheng to record his gratitude personally.

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

As a recipient of scholarship, it has helped me a lot especially to pay the tuition fees per semester and cover the other cost of study and accommodation in campus. During internship, I was not given any allowance, therefore I felt very grateful for this sponsorship which can covered the cost of daily expenses at that time.

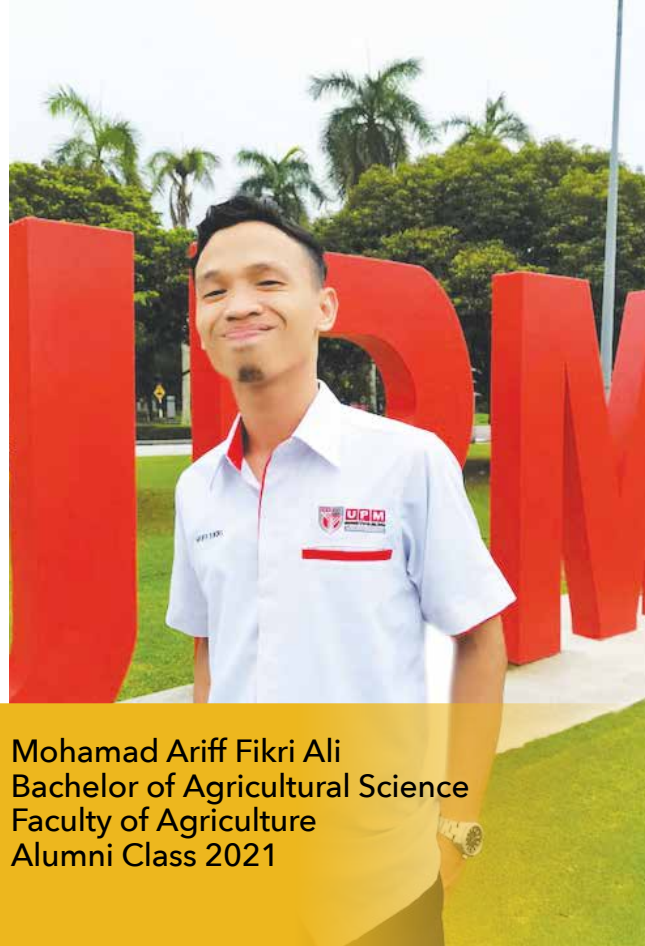
Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Happy 50 Years and may UPM continue to move forward and be consistent in producing high quality and competitive graduates and alumni in the career market and contribute to the nation's development. It is my hope that one day I will contribute especially to the UPM Foundation to help students in need, like me. I love UPM.



Contributions

Gloria Basi
Diploma in Agribusiness
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Science
(UPMKB)
Alumni Class 2020



Mohamad Ariff Fikri Ali
Bachelor of Agricultural Science
Faculty of Agriculture
Alumni Class 2021

Gloria Basi was one of the Soh Kim Mee Scholarship candidates who went for their interview. She was happy but at the same time she was apprehensive and grateful to be called for the interview session despite feeling anxious whether she would become Soh Kim Mee Scholarship recipient to pursue her Diploma in Agribusiness. According to Gloria, most candidates had impressive academic background. However, whatever that is written for us will eventually be ours, hence, she was chosen to be the recipient of Soh Kim Mee Scholarship. Upon receiving the scholarship, she managed to pay her study fee without having to depend on her parents financially for every semester. "I hope in the future this scholarship will continue to help the underprivileged students to ease their burden especially financially throughout their studies," she said. For this opportunity, she is thankful to the sponsor and Alumni Relations Centre UPM in lifting her burden financially to pursue her studies at UPM through the scholarship programme.

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

As the scholarship recipient, the sponsor has relieved my burden such as in study fee payment every semester and for my daily expenses in campus. Upon receiving this scholarship, I do not need to trouble my parents for daily expenses anymore and I am thankful that this scholarship alleviated my parents' burden in supporting me.

Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

I wish UPM will continue to succeed in producing quality graduates and dedicated alumni so that they may contribute back to their university. Thank you UPM.

Mohamad Ariff Fikri was the most recent Soh Kim Mee Scholarship recipient who has completed his study in 2021. During the interview, being calm is important and to have a target for the future. CGPA pointers also should not be taken lightly as it one of the conditions that entitled students to apply for scholarship. According to Ariff Fikri, during the interview he kept calm and be himself. He expressed his gratitude to the sponsor and Alumni Relations Centre UPM as the organiser in assisting him and his friends in applying for the scholarship.

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

The scholarship provided had lifted my family burden and paved the way of my academic journey at UPM.

Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

I wish UPM will continue to excel and will continuously accommodate students' welfare in various ways.



Felcra Berhad Scholarship

Felcra Berhad Scholarship offers a different approach in providing its scholarship. The scholarship is targeted to its own staff to pursue their masters at Universiti Putra Malaysia. A total of RM240,000.00 is allocated for the Felcra Berhad Scholarship recipients. To date, a total of seven recipients of Felcra Berhad Scholarship for 2019-2021 session have completed their masters degrees. In this article, we managed to interview two of the recipients to share about their experience and journey throughout their postgraduate studies under the assistance of scholarship offered.



Syarifah Noor Irma Suryani Syed Ahmad
Master of Plantation Management
Faculty of Agriculture
Alumni Class 2020

Syarifah Noor Irma Suryani was a recipient of Felcra Berhad Scholarship for 2018-2020 session. She has taken Master Plantation Management from Faculty of Agriculture UPM. She was very grateful to Allah SWT for being accepted to continue her masters degrees and to receive scholarship from Felcra Berhad which was fully funded for four semesters. The tuition fee for the said duration was amounted to RM29,500.00. In addition, she was very happy that she was given the opportunity to continue her studies after fifteen years of leaving campus in 2003 at Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam. Back then, she had taken plantation management programme as well. In 2018, she resumed the same programme but in different university and different

academic level. In this edition, she took the opportunity to thank Felcra Berhad management for funding her studies. "May I continue to serve the company as a token of appreciation for the service that has been poured out to me and my fellow colleagues." she said.

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

The scholarship given has been utilised to the utmost. Through my patience and continuous efforts, I have achieved excellent result with a CGPA of 3.88 and graduated in 2020. I have now continued my studies to a higher level, which is a PhD in Agronomy starting in March 2021 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

In conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations, I would like to express my gratitude to Universiti Putra Malaysia in teaching me and my friends for two years in our Master of Plantation Management. May UPM continue to be successful and competitive in line with the nation's development in producing scholars, academicians, corporate figures, and great new generation academicians.



Contributions

Nur Damia Khair Zakaria
Master Plantation Management (MPM)
Faculty of Agriculture
Alumni Class 2021



For Felcra Berhad Scholarship, there is no interview session being held to those who would like to pursue their postgraduate studies in Master Plantation Management. However, applicants need to fulfil certain requirements, which are to hold a position as Agriculture Manager, has a degree in Plantation, three years service with Felcra Berhad and agrees to contribute on plantation management at Felcra Berhad plantation operation within five years upon graduation. Upon receiving the scholarship, she was delighted to have the chance to expand her knowledge in plantation as well as being up to date with current technology in the industry. She was thrilled to participate in crop studies in the field. To acknowledge the opportunity given, she would like to express her gratitude to the top management of Felcra Berhad

for the scholarship allocation to deserving staff as well as providing windows of opportunities to the company's Agriculture Manager to enhance their knowledge in plantations and expertise on company's management. Apart from that, Nur Damia thanked Alumni Relations Centre UPM for providing platform for alumni to express their appreciation to those who played big role in ensuring graduate academic success.

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

The scholarship helps in terms of travel cost to attend classes as we need to travel from work to UPM. In addition, it also helps in terms of accommodation cost for travelling students.



Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Congratulations on UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021). May UPM continue to succeed in producing intellectual graduates for the future of the country. Besides, may UPM always created new frontier of knowledge in line with recent changes and development for its scholars who are determined and continuously seek to explore vast knowledge.



Amco Niaga Scholarship

Alumni Relations Centre UPM has been entrusted to manage Amco Niaga Scholarship which began in the 2017/2018 session. Amco Niaga Scholarship is the contribution of prominent alumni, Tuan Haji Mat Amin Jaafar (Alumni Class of 1994), Managing Director of Amco Niaga Sdn. Bhd. He has agreed to contribute RM15,000.00 in scholarship under the name Amco Niaga Scholarship which is named after his own agrochemical company business industry.



Nur Adlin Norazam
Diploma in Fisheries
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Alumni Class 2020

Amco Niaga Scholarship sponsored one diploma student in Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, UPM Bintulu Campus for three years period of study. Among the criteria to be awarded with the scholarship, the candidate must be from underprivileged family background and obtained good CGPA not below than 3.0.

To date, Nur Adlin was the recipient of Amco Niaga Scholarship for 2017-2020 session. She has completed her Diploma in Fishery in 2020. Her experience during the scholarship interview was she found that Amco Niaga was very concerned about the candidate's welfare. They also asked about her education progress and status. During the interview, she shared stories and opinions from different aspects. She could see that Amco Niaga and Alumni Relations Centre UPM were assertive in questioning candidates and it helped to some extend the students who attended the interview to be more confident in answering questions and opinions addressed.

She was very excited and grateful to have been selected and successfully passed the interview which was also attended by students of different programmes. She was pleased to have been given the opportunity to receive

a scholarship from Amco Niaga. The opportunity and experience in receiving the scholarship will be gratefully cherished during her lifetime.

The opportunity presented by Amco Niaga and the organiser, Alumni Relations Centre UPM has helped Nur Adlin to achieve excellent results during her tenure as a Diploma in Fisheries student at Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu Campus (UPMKB).

As the scholarship recipient, how did it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

The scholarship I received from Amco Niaga has been very helpful to me financially and in my day-to-day management. The fees for each semester are fully funded and I am also given a subsistence allowance which is very helpful to my daily expenses. This made my learning schedule runs smoothly where I did not have to think about additional expenses like buying books and so on. I just need to focus on the lectures to obtain excellent results each semester. I am also able to manage my daily life well. I admit that with this sponsorship I have received, it has helped me to become a student with clearer vision and goals.

Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

In conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations, I would like to congratulate all parties in the development of UPM as an excellence and successful university achieved throughout 50 years of its establishment (1971-2021). My hope is that UPM will continue to be the institution of knowledge and innovation, especially in agriculture that produces quality agricultural human capital, enriches knowledge, explores various innovations, and creates excellent lives. I also hope UPM will continue to strengthen its reputation internationally and consistently ranked high in the world university rankings.



Contributions

CLA EMPIRE

Yayasan Said Scholarship

Alumni Relations Centre UPM has been entrusted to manage Yayasan Said Scholarship that begins in 2017/2018 session. Yayasan Said Scholarship is the contribution of prominent alumni Mr, Said Saiful Fazli Said Aluwi (Alumni Class 2008), Chief Executive Officer of CLA Empire Sdn. Bhd. The core business of CLA Empire Sdn. Bhd. focuses on giving the guidance and strategy plan to entrepreneur who would like to venture into business and agreed to contribute RM30,000.00 to Yayasan Said Scholarship. The scholarship is offered to one Bachelor of Business Administration with honours student at School of Business and Economics, Universiti Putra Malaysia.



Siti Nur Fatimah Mohammad Radzi
Bachelor in Business Administration
School of Business and Economics
Alumni Class 2021

Siti Nur Fatimah was the recipient of Yayasan Said Scholarship and has completed her studies in 2021. Sharing her experience in scholarship interview session, preparation before the interview is the key on how to tackle the interviewer questions. She was able to answer the question calmly as she has done some preliminary research about the interview. All of the interviewers were excellent and asked questions that were closely related to the scholarship offered. After she passed the interview, Siti Nur Fatimah felt disbelief that she had made it through. There are other candidates who may be more qualified to receive this scholarship, but she was very pleased that Yayasan Said Scholarship chose her as the recipient of the scholarship. She shared her joy with her family and they were grateful that she was selected to continue studies under Yayasan Said Scholarship. She sincerely thanked Alumni Relations Centre UPM for organising scholarship programmes for eligible students whereby it helps students to

continue their studies. Yayasan Said Scholarship has given her the opportunity and helped her in pursuing her studies at university. "I will repay the kindness by giving all my best in the future." she assured.

As the scholarship recipient, how does it help in your studies and your everyday life in campus?

After I received Yayasan Said Scholarship, my studies and daily life progressed well. Previously, I made a PTPTN loan to cover my expenses during my studies at UPM. However, after receiving the Yayasan Said Scholarship, I terminated the PTPTN agreement where I got a reduction in loan repayment. Yayasan Said Scholarship helps me in various aspects especially in financial difficulties, where the needs of my studies as well as daily needs can be met from the scholarship. Besides that, the scholarship sponsor is also a company based on giving training and motivation. So throughout my studies at

UPM I have participated in several activities involving event management and so on. It has helped me gain some meaningful experience for future practice.

Please express your greetings and hopes in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Congratulations to UPM in conjunction with UPM's 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations. I am honoured to be one of the students who completed my years of study at UPM. UPM has produced many students with high potential and capacity for success in the future. The success that UPM has made to this day is the success of all parties. I thanked all UPM staff who have worked together to enhance UPM superiority. I hope various programmes and activities can be implemented so that the establishment of UPM will continue to be honoured and cheered upon by all UPM staff and students. Hopefully, all UPM community will continue to succeed and continue to lead to success.

Sekalung Penghargaan dan Terima Kasih kepada
PENAJA BIASISWA ALUMNI

SENARAI PENAJABIASISWA ALUMNI UPM



BIASISWA CHAPTER CYPERUS'92



BIASISWA SOH KIM MEE



BIASISWA TMJ



BIASISWA MENTERI BESAR SELANGOR



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BIASISWA AMCO NIAGA

CUCKOO

BIASISWA CUCKOO



BIASISWA AGRICSC'94



BIASISWA ALUMNI KOLEJ TIGA

Student Leadership and Character Development

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Mursyid Arshad
(Alumni Class 2008, 2010, 2016)
Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah College

Excellence to the Next Destination

Mr. Mohd Izwan Mohd Lazim

Alumni Class 2008, 2012

Do More and Become More: You Are Leader!



One approach that promotes Positive Youth Development (PYD) among youth is being involved in leadership activities. Focusing on the learning process in leadership development through student activities is fundamental to fostering these positive aspects. Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is one of the dedicated academic institutions promoting this agenda.

The art of student leadership development has indeed been reflected and cohesively harnessed by Mr. Mohd Izwan Bin Mohd Lazim, a holder of Bachelor of Science Chemistry, Faculty of Science, and an Alumni of Class 2008. He also graduated with a Master of Science (Phytochemistry) at Institute of Bioscience, UPM in 2012. To further elaborate on his thoughts on the culture of giving back to the alma mater, and his vision for advancement of student leadership development, three

members of the editorial board of Serdang Sun visited his office. Led by Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Mursyid Arshad and assisted by Mdm. Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan and Mr. Ag Famezan Ag Mohd Noh, they spent 50 minutes garnering his ideas and aspirations regarding student leadership development.

Mr. Mohd Izwan Bin Mohd Lazim, hails from Pengkalan Hulu, Perak but spent most of his childhood in Sungai Petani, Kedah. He served for 11 years as a Senior Research Officer Food Science and Technology Research Centre, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI). As a proud alumnus of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), he used to be the Student Representative Council (Entrepreneurship), Tun Dr. Ismail Residential College, UPM. He emphasised that student leadership and volunteerism have always been a central part of the leadership experience and due to this COVID-19 pandemic, UPM

students should demonstrate that leadership, in a way, that will have an impact for a long time to come.

The basis of future success for UPM student leaders depends on continuing their capability to have a developed sense of who you are and what you want to achieve. "I've always strongly believed that residential college is not only a time for academic learning, although that's important, but also a time for personal growth and social development. Fortunately, the students are already demonstrating quite a bit of maturity. I was expecting that we'd be dealing with more rambunctiousness from the students and perhaps more creative in decision making. But overall based on my view, UPM students are really mature and amazing." observed Mr. Mohd Izwan. He also made known the many inspirations close to his heart, top of the list being - the culture of giving back to the alma mater. He added, "The way I like to think about what we're trying to

do is trying to radically change our perspective as students and how outsiders think of UPM graduates. I am excited to have the opportunity to assist and guide them."

His advice to future students is to achieve a good balance between studies and co-curricular activities, besides nurturing oneself with a variety of soft skills. Looking at the current new norms educational styles, Mr. Izwan felt that the system depends on online medium using curriculum with a few books and learning materials. Therefore, to complement the curriculum

Furthermore, his advice to all students is that one should always keep an open mind and to never stop learning because one day we might end up with a job that we would have never expected, especially due to post COVID-19 pandemic. "UPM students must work hard to face challenges which may not be very closely related to their studies or expertise. It is better to feel lost at the beginning, then slowly but surely, they can succeed. Students should also fully utilise all the knowledge, experience and skills acquired in UPM to try something new.

but you also need to be critical, proactive and take advantage of all that UPM has to offer". Mr. Izwan stressed that as a university student, one must not restrict oneself to attending classes alone. "This is the period in life that helps to equip students with the relevant soft and communication skills to improve their personality in the real workforce."

Finally, Mr. Izwan's last piece of advice to all students is stamping his call to all students to involve themselves in student representative council or student



as per vision and mission of UPM and the Ministry of Higher Education, it is important for students to participate in social and cultural activities which have many advantages such as developing social skills, learning new things, and being motivated and disciplined. "Well, I think the effectiveness of students in higher institutions also depends directly on the planning of student development programmes and their involvement on campus. The ability of youth-adult partnership techniques in developing graduate abilities can be seen more clearly if the process of developing knowledge, attitudes and practices is nurtured. They are always about attitude, skills and knowledge".



Believe it or not, students need to be creative and innovative in facing post COVID-19 pandemic". He also reminded students that they cannot afford to be choosy in life, to be willing to venture into new disciplines of knowledge and to always be prepared to gain valuable experience. "UPM is the place that allows you to try new things, to succeed or fail and definitely help in one's success,

association as he believes that it has the ability to train in strategic thinking. He said, "knowledge and experience can be learned and earned anywhere, not just in lecture hall. Students need to equip themselves with high skills if they want to compete and succeed in their respective options. The most important thing, you have to be passionate about what you want to do", he concluded.

Campus Portraits



Mr. Wong Shy Kit | Alumni Class 2018

Make a Change, One Step at a Time

Mr. Wong Shy Kit was born in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan and started his studies in Foundation of Agricultural Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2013 which is a pre-university programme equivalent to the Foundation of Science, Matriculation and also STPM. Not one to rest on his laurels, he continued his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and graduated in 2018. He remembers vividly staying at the 13th Residential College, UPM which definitely made him a stronger and better person.

He was an English Debater and President of Serdang Royal Debate Club. Mr. Wong was the Champion of Hult Prize in UPM 2018, Regional Finalist of Hult Prize Kuala Lumpur 2018 and an alumnus of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship Spring 2019, the United

States government's signature programme to strengthen leadership development and networking

Mr. Wong is highly passionate in doing social innovation. He founded Luminary, a tech-based social enterprise start-up which emphasises on impact-driven and result-oriented programmes to empower the marginalised communities. "Luminary is a social enterprise that focuses on designing off-grid and autonomous system using clean energy to supply clean water and electricity to rural and disaster-prone areas, while integrating thorough impact assessments services on both people and the environment throughout the project. This is how we are rerouting the way we supply clean water and electricity to marginalized communities in rural areas". Profoundly, he is self-motivated philomath and enthusiastic in engineering knowledge and believes in the effort of making a distinct positive impact on

marginalised communities by utilising both technical and entrepreneurial knowledge. He is currently working on a PhD on renewable energy (Solar Engineering) at Universiti Putra Malaysia, while actively involves in self-developing programs.

Mr. Wong was the Top 10 KOL Award (Key Opinion Leaders) in the MonStar Awards ceremony, held in Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) Cyberjaya in November 2018. The ceremony was held to recognise 100 students Key Opinion Leaders across Malaysia. It was organised by Monsta, a network for students to access real-world opportunities through experiential learning compared to traditional methods. This is Mr. Wong's dream for success. "Start small and stay greedy. It is not necessary for students to start something of their own from scratch if they feel like they do not have the right idea, experience, and resources yet. Take small steps by joining initiatives or organisations that

are led by people who are an inspiration to you. Taking the first step is always the hardest, but if you find the right path that you are willing to commit to it, the growth curve is unimaginable”.



these are the major reasons that keep me excited and loving what I do every day”.

As a student entrepreneur, one of the biggest challenges faced by many is time management and finding the correct balance between your venture and studies. One thing about him, he is obsessed with productivity and ways to hack through processes. He genuinely believes that there is always a way to balance studies and non-academic ventures. “I have a daily practice where I start off my day by planning out all the tasks, I would need to finish for the day to call it a successful day. It is truly vital for all people to have a deep passion for whatever they endeavour, which can trigger their spirit and to never give up. Therefore, I also outline the weekly milestones as my aims. You will succeed”. With these simple practices, Mr. Wong believes that he can maximise the value of his day with the optimal output.

the chance to meet remarkable people who are equally passionate about making positive changes in the world, and he even had the chance to work with some of them.

Mr. Wong believes he is constantly undergoing massive growth every day, making a larger and larger socio-environmental impact. “I always keep myself away from the



Currently, Mr. Wong is actively involved in the social impact non-profit scene includes being the COO of Nation Building School, a youth-led NGO that focuses on youth empowerment and civic engagement; Co-Director of Impact and Research of The Malaysian Social Project, a pro-bono consulting organisation for the third sector. During the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, he founded a social enterprise called SERUM that provides hand sanitizers and face masks to the underserved communities such as refugees and the urban poor. He said “the real impact that we are creating on-the-ground. Seeing the refugee children’s happy faces, receiving appreciation from the refugee artisan, knowing that we are keeping more and more people safe each day and of course

Furthermore, as a young social entrepreneur, he received lots of encouraging words and high expectations during the start of his journey. It requires a lot of courage and confidence to embark on something like this. These expectation and confidence, Mr. Wong speaks of, is cultivated through the people around him, ranging from family to friends and colleagues, who are not only supportive of his venture but also act as an inspiration to him for doing more every day. “When one embarks on the entrepreneurial journey, change occurs. 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. The way you think, act, and view the world, then all change”. By becoming a social entrepreneur, Mr Wong had

saying work smart, don’t work hard, instead, I hold on to the concept of work smart and work hard. For students, you should work hard to face challenges which may not be very closely related to their studies or expertise. It is better to feel lost at the beginning, then slowly but surely, you can succeed”, he shared some advice to the UPM students.



“Vetrepreneur Caring for Furry Friends”

Dr. Raja Aiman Hakim (Alumni Class 2019)

Writer: Najihah Zakaria (Alumni Class 2019)
UPM Alumni Association

Dr. Raja Aiman Hakim, 28, was raised in Kuala Lumpur with his parents and an older brother. As a pet lover, his interest in becoming a veterinarian grew at the age of 16 which led him to join the diploma programme in Animal Health and Husbandry at UPMKB Sarawak in 2011 for three good years. He studied really hard in order to pursue his target to be enlisted into UPM DVM course.

Through sheer force of will, that dream materialised and he subsequently earned his Bachelor's Degree in Veterinary Medicine five years later. In addition to making it to the Dean's List for seven semesters, he was also a member of the Students' Representative Council (MPP). His strong academic performance coupled with his active participation in extracurricular activities has awarded him the Alumni Gold Medal at the 42nd Universiti Putra Malaysia convocation ceremony. While many veterinarians choose to work as associates within an established practice, some, including himself, decide to venture out on their own and build a new practice from the ground up.

Can you tell me about the career journey you embarked on after graduation?

After I graduated in 2019, I joined a veterinary practice in Klang for almost a year and it was a good introduction to my career. However, businesses were heavily impacted when the pandemic took the world over in March 2020, hence I decided to quit the particular clinic. While seeking other jobs, an opportunity came up to me. A friend of mine asked if I was down to partner up and open a veterinary practice. I decided to take a leap of faith and said yes! Our clinic has been operating since August 2020 and is called the 7th Avenue Veterinary Clinic in Setia Alam. I would say the pandemic was a blessing in disguise for me.

How do you deal with stress in vet school?

I love this field and I enjoy studying it so much, however, there is no doubt that veterinary medicine is very stressful. A vet student needs to acquire broad scientific knowledge and technical skills independently in a wide array of clinical, research, and other situations, therefore being studious is a must. It is an obligation for me to open the book and lecture notes on a daily basis. Hence, knowing my limits is important to impede knowledge fatigue. When I feel like I could not retain any more information, I would do outdoor activities such as playing tennis.

What is your fondest memory of your time at UPM?

Throughout my course of study, I made plenty of very happy memories at UPM with my friends. As vet students, we had to undergo multiple industrial training during semester breaks. For example, we went to Bangkok for several

weeks and aside from gaining knowledge, we made some really good friends. I would have to say being a vet student, albeit not being able to spend your holidays with family, earns you heaps of opportunities to go to various places to complete your industrial training. The best part was that I got to go with my best friends, which I think is a form of holiday.

How did studying at UPM impact you as a person?

UPMKB has moulded me to become independent. Leaving home for the first time is not easy.

What is one achievement (big or small) that you are most proud of?

Opening up my clinic is one of the achievements that I am most proud of which I honestly did not plan out. Starting any business is a difficult task especially when you have zero knowledge of running a business and no clue where to start. It also requires hefty start-up costs with stringent regulations. With great passion and careful planning, my partners and I made it work! It is a dream come true for me and at this rate, I am very grateful for how things are going.

assist them. I will be more than happy to share my experience and knowledge.

What are tips/tricks and general advice to those who are considering a career in veterinary medicine?

The problem with our culture is many of us are afraid to make mistakes. Students are reluctant to answer when questions are being asked by lecturers and are afraid to share opinions. Mistakes are a great way to learn and make you



Being in an unfamiliar environment in Sarawak has also opened up my eyes and made me think differently. Meanwhile, studying in UPM Serdang has opened up some really great opportunities for me. I had the chance to attend a student council symposium in Vietnam and met student leaders from other countries.

How will you give back to UPM as your alma mater?

I have been communicating with the Faculty of Veterinary UPM to offer vet students internship opportunities. If they want to get hands-on clinical skills in my clinic, feel free to contact me and I will

more knowledgeable, thus do not be afraid to make mistakes. Also, be consistent to work hard, you will never regret working hard because hard work always pays off.



“Agriculture: You Can’t Live without It”

Writer: Najihah Zakaria (Alumni Class 2019)
UPM Alumni Association

Ermelia Rohayu Ramlan (Alumni Class 2015)

“Growing up in a bustling metropolis, Kuala Lumpur, it had never crossed my mind to partake in the agricultural field”, says Ermelia Rohayu, 2015 UPM alumna. She is an agriculture graduate with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.804. Recalling her high school days, the teachers had never encouraged the pupils to consider careers in agriculture. When she decided to pursue the Foundation Studies Programme for Agricultural Science (ASPer) at UPM, her biology teacher, Ms Alice, was the only person in school who gave her uplifting and encouraging words to go for it.

“Agricultural Science Foundation Programme was implemented in three semesters during that time and our batch was the last batch to experience it before it was shortened to two semesters”. She enjoyed every learning process and her passion towards agriculture grew considerably stronger thence. With that, she furthered her study in Bachelor of Agricultural Science in UPM. Throughout her course of study, she immersed herself in various co-curricular activities. She was also appointed as the president of the Thirteen College Council. The presidency role carries a lot of responsibility, but as a person who has a strong drive, she took up the challenge. “Having a lot on my plate is challenging but it trains me to manage my time wisely and do the very best to carry the responsibility”. She also preferred study groups as it is a great way to liven up her study sessions.

In addition to being awarded the Best Student award at the Faculty of Agriculture, she earned the Chancellor’s Gold Award Medal, Royal Education Gold Award Medal (Bumiputera), Alumni Gold Award Medal and Award Medal of Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Rashdan Baba upon graduation. Never in her wildest dreams did she expect to receive four academic awards at the convocation ceremony. These academic awards are not easy to achieve because they need discipline, hard work and perseverance.

Each graduate was given one invitation card for two guests to attend the convocation ceremony, but she was granted two extra seats for her late grandmother and her aunty. Reminiscing over the convocation ceremony, after being handed the first award, she had to take a few steps backward on the stage to receive the next award. “The packed hall burst into laughter; it is not a common



occurrence for a graduate to receive a handful of awards at a convocation ceremony. It was a memorable day for me, having my loved ones there to witness my achievement is the best feeling ever!”



She received a few job offers immediately after completing her degree and some of it even came before the convocation took place. She started her career as a secretary for a lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture UPM. After that, she switched her career in a whole different sector as an assistant restaurant manager for five months before finding her role in education. “I believe that knowledge is a vast ocean. You will never know whether something is your cup of tea unless you give it a try. Furthermore, a varied job experience gives you a diverse skill set which I think is a plus point”.

Her journey at the Centre of Foundation Studies for Agricultural Science began in March 2016 as an Executive Officer. Concurrently, she enrolled in Universiti Malaya to pursue Diploma in Education as she wished to enter the teaching profession. “My job ends at 5pm but I was given leniency to leave at 4pm in order for me to attend my classes at 5pm.” After earning her

Diploma in 2018, she was offered a permanent position. To date, it has been two years Ermelia Rohayu has served UPM as an education services officer at the Centre of Foundation Studies for Agricultural Science and teaches agriculture courses.

She aspires to become a better educator and encourages more young people to pursue a career in the field of agriculture. “If there is anything the world has learned from the pandemic, it is the importance of agriculture. Agriculture is the bedrock of human existence, and the food chains need to be more resilient.”

When asked of good advice for future students, she said university is more than just getting a degree. Do not restrict yourself to attending classes only. Try new things, develop your interpersonal skills for a better learning, personality development and better communication skills. This will come in handy in the future.

Highlights

Highlight

of Alumni Activities

January - December

2021



PROJEK MEGA USAHAWAN TANI OPENING CEREMONY

29 January 2021 • Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM)

Projek Mega Usahawan Tani was a programme allocated in Geran Aktiviti Jalinan Alumni which was funded by UPM alumni through 1A1SR (1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit) fund collections. It is a pioneer project for students' agriculture sustainability project in the university mentored by Mr. Ahmad Nazri from Klang Department of Agriculture. In addition, any harvested products from this project will become part of the students side income and it could even act as a stepping stone for the students to be an agro entrepreneur. The ceremony was officiated by Dato' Raihan Sharif from UPM Alumni Association according to the new norm criteria. Interestingly, the ceremony managed to attract 859 viewers all over the Facebook and Student Representative Council, MPP's YouTube channel. UPM management hoped this project will sustain and continue to generate students' interest in the agro entrepreneur.

ESSENTIALS CONTRIBUTION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

5 February 2021 • International Transit House (ITH)

Contribution of essential items for UPM international students were initiated by a group of international alumni such as Baitulnur Sdn Bhd, Impact TCS Sdn Bhd, Alyousefi Group Sdn Bhd, and Am Avenue Trading Sdn Bhd. The packaging and distribution of these items were assisted by 10 Student Representative Council (MPP UPM) members and officers from Alumni Relations Centre at International Transit House (ITH). A total sum at the value of RM31,587.48 of contributions were received and successfully distributed to the international student community. This noble effort should be lasting in ameliorating the welfare of both the international and local students.





UPM ALUMNI GOLDEN FIT

5 February – 31 May 2021 • Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM)

In 2021, UPM is celebrating its 50 Years Golden Jubilee (1971-2021). A range of programmes and activities have been scheduled to enliven the celebrations organised by UPM entities. Thus, UPM Alumni Golden Fit was organised in conjunction with the said celebrations. UPM Alumni Golden Fit is a fitness program consisting of running, walking, cycling, riding or any type of fitness activities, and any sport applications that can detect movement. In addition, this program provides participants to choose the length of distance ranging from 5 KM up to 50 KM of their chosen activities. They may complete the distance selected by managing their fitness schedule or even complete it at one go. 6000 participations are expected to join the program, and thus, enabling it to be acknowledged as the “Largest Participation in a University Alumni Fitness Event” in Malaysia Book of Records.



ALUMNI PRIHATIN.KOLABORATIF. PROAKTIF (P.K.P.) SERIES 28

8 February 2021 • Virtual

In continuation of Alumni P.K.P. series, the 28th series covered Sports and Stress by Mr. Mohd Azlan Mubin (Alumni Class of 2009), sports presenter for Astro Arena. More than 240 participants joined the session. It was a fruitful sharing session with various questions asked and sharing of information among the audience. Mr. Azlan Mubin talked about stress and its relationship with sports.

SEJAM BERSAMA ALUMNI (SEBA) SERIES 21-28

24 February - 23 September 2021 • Virtual

One-hour sharing session between UPM alumni and students in which the contents focused on the key needed to succeed and to overcome obstacles in real-world competition.



Highlights

UPM PRIHATIN: KIT 3K (KESELAMATAN, KESIHATAN, KECERIAAN)

26 February – 1 March 2021 • Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM)

The special contributions comprise essential needs and a hygiene kit for front liners, and patients located at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) COVID-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centre (PKRC). This programme was a collaboration between ARCUPM, Chapter YOSH, and MyFundAction. The contributions' packing session was held from 26 until 28 February with the participation of more than 40 volunteers from UPM and importantly complied with COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). On March 1, the distribution was continued by MyFundAction CEO, PKRC Director, ARCUPM management, and fellow stakeholders. A whopping value of contribution amounted to RM660,970.00 with 6500 sets of packaging had been successfully distributed to PKRC front liners and patients during these trying times.



UPM PRIHATIN: BANTUAN PERANTI DAN PELAN DATA PELAJAR

25 Mac 2021 • Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM)

Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) in collaboration with Student Affairs Division (BHEP), Centre for Management of Waqf, Zakat, and Endowment (WAZAN) and Bursar had organised device and data plan aid specifically for the underprivileged students from the B40 group. A sum of RM14,400.00 was successfully contributed to this aid programme which was collected from alumni, UPM staff, and the public through 1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit (1A1SR) fund. This programme was officiated by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Student Affairs and Alumni, Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu, and respected fellow guests. During this pandemic, the contribution is viewed as relevant to ease students' burden who are currently shared or unable to own their study device such as a laptop. This aid programme was just starting for ARCUPM and provided the opportunity for UPM alumni in practicing giving back values by supporting student welfare.



UPM ALUMNI GOLDEN FIT X VIP RIDE

1 April 2021 • Equine Unit, Universiti Putra Malaysia

History has been made with a collaboration between Alumni Relations Centre UPM, University Veterinary Hospital, and University Agriculture Park in conjunction with UPM Golden Jubilee Celebrations by organising UPM Golden Fit X VIP Ride. The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), Malaysian Armed Force Equestrian Centre (MAFEC), and Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ) have participated in the 5 km horseback riding which was one of the fitness activities categorised in the UPM Alumni Golden Fit.



INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 FORUM AFTERMATH (IFOCA) 2021 – SERIES 1

26 March 2021 • Putra Gallery, Universiti Putra Malaysia

IFOCA 2021 was a forum organised by Student Representative Council (MPP) in collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM). IFOCA 2021 was derived from the Alumni Grant offered by ARCUPM with the allocation of RM10,000.00. IFOCA was a forum that focused on the aftermath of COVID-19 based on health, economic, and education angles of discussion among the three panels and it was the first forum of its kind organised in UPM. The first series of IFOCA has gathered Mr. Ahmad Zamzury Abu Bakar (Head Government Sales, Malaysia Airlines Berhad), Mr. Ahmad Eldaine Samadi, (Foodpanda rider), and Mr. Fahmi Azar Mistar (Deputy Director ARCUPM). Series 1 discussed Special Tributes to Frontliners: The Unsung Hero of COVID-19 with 305 virtual participants joining in. The panel were selected based on their background related to an unsung hero such as those who work at the airlines company, food delivery industry and student welfare.



INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 FORUM AFTERMATH (IFOCA) 2021 – SERIES 2

2 April 2021 • Putra Gallery, Universiti Putra Malaysia

The second instalment of IFOCA series discussed on COVID-19 Aftermath: Hardest Hit Industry during Pandemic and Recovery Strategy. Captain Mushafiz Mustafa Bakri (CEO, Malindo Air) represents the hardest-hit industry which is an airlines company. Followed by rapidly growing industry during COVID-19 pandemic, food delivery industry represented by Dato' Khairil Muzamil from GoEat Malaysia and economic expert virtually invited from Indonesia, Dr. Chandra Setiawan (alumni class 2012). Series 2 of IFOCA was a hit with a whopping 1082 virtual participants intrigued by the second forum topics of discussion. The main concern of the second series was to briefly share about the hardest-hit industry and how they are coping with the inevitable downfall, how the growing industry comes into play during the pandemic occurrence, and to balance the forum discussion was opinions from the economic expert.



INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 FORUM AFTERMATH (IFOCA) 2021 – SERIES 3

9 April 2021 • Putra Gallery, Universiti Putra Malaysia

The final series talk about Building COVID-19 Aftermath New Normal in Malaysia: Strategic Actions for Health, Economy and Education. Three panellists line up in this series were Datuk Dr. Hishamshah Mohd Ibrahim, Deputy Director-General of Health, Research and Technical Support, Ministry of Health; Mr. Nik Nazree Nik Abd Rahman (Alumni Class 2005 & 2010), Director Economic Research and Data Analytics, Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norhayati Hussain, Deputy Dean Postgraduate, Research and Innovation, Faculty of Food Science and Technology UPM. Approximately, 918 virtual participants joined the series from the internal audience and public. The final series marks the success of IFOCA 2021, and it is hoped the emergence of other forums organised by students will be held continuously despite the outbreak occurrence.



Highlights

UPM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (PAUPM) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

10 Apr 2021- Auditorium Rashdan Baba, Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), UPM



The new line-up of PAUPM Committee Members (2021-2023)

President: Dato Raihan Sharif

Deputy President: Dato' Syed Abd Rahman Abd Rashid

Secretary-General: Dr. Ibrahim Hj. Mohamed

Treasurer: Hj Zainal Abidin Yahya

Assistant Secretary: Norfadliza Minhat

Committee Members:

- Ahmad Qadri B. Basri
- Dr. Shatesh Kumar Sangar
- Fahmi Azar Mistar
- Goh You Chang
- Ir. S. Kumar S. Subramaniam
- Rohani Binti Md Yon
- Prof. Madya Dr. Nurul Hayah Khairuddin
- Mohd Nazri Noh
- Aliman Ali
- Lar. Khalifah Jamaluddin
- Mohd Adib Mohd Khalid



MUSAADAH RAMADAN: TAUTAN MAHABBAH

29 April 2021 • Pusat Jagaan Kanak-Kanak Yatim/Miskin Rukaiyah, Sungai Merab, Selangor

Tautan Mahabbah intention was to cherish and celebrate the residents of the orphanage centre which was populated with 11 boys, 22 girls, and 12 caretakers in the fasting month. Among the honourable guests who attended the programme were Professor Dr. Arifin Abdu (Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud (ARCUPM Director), Mr. Fahmi Azar Mistar (ARCUPM Deputy Director) and Hj. Wan Ali (PAUPM Representative). The essential contribution amounted RM21,000 was collected from UPM alumni and staff through a donation drive campaign.



MAJLIS IFTAR RAMADHAN PAUPM

30 Apr 2021 • Restoran Astana Putra

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) organised an Iftar charity event that was attended by 109 guests including YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail, YBhg. Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu, Exco members, and UPM Alumni Chapter representatives, while practising safety steps. A total of RM19,793.00 was raised for cash assistance to asnaf students from UPM, Rumah Anak Yatim Dato' Harun, Rumah Jagaan Orang Tua Al Ikhlas and Mesra Home.





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MUSAADAH RAMADAN: MAWADDAH RAMADAN

5 May 2021 • Residential Colleges, Universiti Putra Malaysia
Mawaddah Ramadan was held every year organised by Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) in collaboration with Student Representative Council (MPP). It is a distribution of breakfasting meals or iftar for students who are staying at college during imposed Malaysian Movement Control Order (MCO). The funds was collected through a donation drive among UPM alumni and staff. Through UPM Prihatin, the welfare of 450 students who are still staying at colleges is the main concern in helping them to sustain their needs in these trying times. Professor Dr. Arifin Abdu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni, ARCUPM team and Students Representative Council aided in the iftar distribution.



FREE MEAL SAHUR AT RUMAH BAKTI DATO' HARUN

5 May 2021 • Rumah Bakti Dato' Harun, Ampang Selangor

The Suhoor is a vital part of fasting in the month of Ramadhan. UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) took the initiative to hold a free meal programme at an orphanage situated in Ulu Klang. The programme that started at 4.30 am raised over RM5000 donations and was handed over to the orphanage. Stationery packages were also distributed to all resident children by Mr. Qadry, UPM Alumni Association exco member.



PAUPM DONATES TO THE OLD FOLKS HOME

6 & 7 May 2021 • Ulu Klang & Puchong
UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) extended RM3,000 donations respectively to Pusat Jagaan dan Rawatan Orang Tua Al-Ikhlas and Pusat Jagaan Sri Mesra. PAUPM hoped the donations would help to ease their burden and be able to support their daily expenses.



UPM MOSQUE SANITATION

11 May 2021 • Universiti Putra Malaysia Mosque

This sanitation programme is one of the contributions of UPM alumni to the alma mater and community, thus strengthening the spirit of togetherness and volunteerism among alumni and campus residents. The programme indicates UPM's concern about the safety of its residents and local community who will use the mosque to perform prayers. The collaboration with Student Representative Council (MPP) showcases a good example for other graduates in continuing their duty to university when they graduated.





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youtube.com/user/bppupm

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Highlights



MEGACHILI PROJECT 2021

23 May 2021 • Residential Colleges, UPM

MegaChili Project 2021 in collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre (ARCUPM), Residential Colleges, Student Affairs Division, UPM Alumni Association, Centre of Entrepreneurial Development and Graduate Marketability, Faculty of Agriculture, and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. This project involved ten residential colleges in UPM. Each college was allocated a one-off RM5,000.00 grant and is required to organise MegaChili Project as the main project and must fully utilise it before the end of March 2022. MegaChili Project continues as a platform for students to imply knowledge and guidance from alumni mentors. Furthermore, this project showcases UPM's close collaboration with government agencies in a long run and provides exposure to the student on the real challenges to become an agro-entrepreneur.

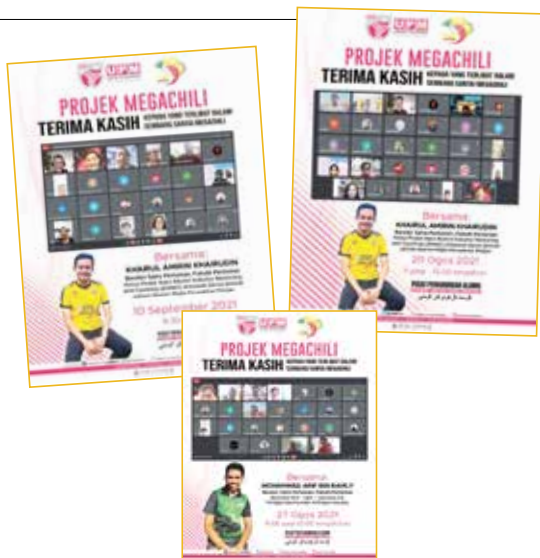


MEGACHILI WORKSHOP SERIES 1-5

19, 26 June & 4, 10, 17 July 2021 • Virtual

The objective of the workshop is knowledge transfer on the basics of chili planting involving five alumni mentors.

1. Dr. Elisa Azura Azman (Alumni Class 2009 & 2012) initiated the first series of the workshop with the topics of Soil and Agriculture Fertiliser.
2. Mr. Kamarulridhuan Razali (Alumni Class 2018) proceed with the second series of Megachili Workshop entitled Seeds and How to Plant.
3. Mr. Kamarulridhuan Razali (Alumni Class 2018) continues with the third series workshop shared about Crops and Harvesting Maintenance.
4. Mr. Ahmad Nazri Abdullah Zawawi (Alumni Class of 2000 & 2015) focused on Chili Fertigation Management in the forth series workshop.
5. The final Megachili workshop was represented by Mohd Hafiz Ramly (Alumni Class 2005) discussed on Career Upskill.



MEGACHILI SEMBANG SANTAI SERIES 1-3

20 August, 27 August, 10 September 2021 - Virtual

Megachili Sembang Santai is a leisure sharing session between students as panels and fellow Megachili participants. Each panel tackled the basics of chili planting and how to market their product in the future.

1. Khairul Amirin Khairudin (Bachelor of Agricultural Science) initiated the first series of Sembang Santai sharing about rockmelon planting using fertigation technique and basic chili planting.
2. Mohammad Arif Ramly (Bachelor of Agricultural Science) continues with the second series which highlights his experience on the pros and problems faced throughout his fertigation project.
3. Khairul Amirin Khairudin (Bachelor of Agricultural Science) concluded the series on marketing strategy for chili commodities.



UPM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 50 YEARS GOLDEN JUBILEE OFFICIAL CEREMONY

1 July 2021 • UPM Alumni Association Office, TNC (R&D) Building.

This year, the UPM Alumni Association marks its 50th Anniversary. In conjunction with #Sambutan50TahunPersatuanAlumni, a programme was held online to announce the launch of a new PAUPM logo as part of the ongoing evolution of PAUPM. Future programmes and activities organised by PAUPM that will take place throughout the year were also shared by Dato Raihan Sharif, President of PAUPM.

PRELAUNCH CEREMONY OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ALUMNI DAY 2021

18 July 2021 • Virtual

Malaysia Public Universities Alumni Council celebrated its first anniversary in conjunction with the Prelaunch Ceremony of Malaysia Public Universities Alumni Day. Malaysia Public Universities Alumni Council was successfully registered on 18 July 2020 has proven the unity among 20 public universities in Malaysia is capable to empower its alumni to return to alma mater on par with overseas university alumni. The virtual celebration was officiated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raman Noordin who is the Chairman of Malaysia Public Universities Alumni Council. The establishment of the Malaysia Public Universities Alumni Council is a manifestation of the effort to empower alumni in Malaysia.



UPM ALUMNI GOLDEN FIT: THE MALAYSIA BOOK OF RECORDS CEREMONY

6 August 2021 • Virtual

History has been made for Universiti Putra Malaysia upon receiving the Malaysia Book of Records for The Largest Participation in a University Alumni Fitness Event 2021 through UPM Alumni Golden Fit in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021). The virtual Malaysia Book of Records handing over was announced by Mr. Edwin Yeoh Teong Chin, MBOR Senior Record Consultant. Among the guests who attended the ceremony were Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, UPM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Dato' Raihan Shariff, President of UPM Alumni Association, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud, Director of ARCUPM and fellow officers, staff, alumni, and students.



Highlights



MALAYSIA BOOK OF RECORDS HANDING OVER CEREMONY

22 September 2021 • Canselori Putra, Universiti Putra Malaysia

A Malaysia Book of Records handing over a session to Prof. Dr. Roslan Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor along with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud (ARCUPM Director), Mr. Fahmi Azar Mistar (ARCUPM Deputy Director), and Mr. Aida Fitri Peli (Executive Officer). Earlier on 6 August 2021, a virtual ceremony was held by The Malaysia Book of Records and the announcement was made by MBOR Senior Record Consultant, Mr. Edwin Yeoh Teong Chin. UPM Alumni Golden Fit has proven the spirit of cooperation and participation among alumni and staff. Besides, through UPM Alumni Golden Fit has managed to obtain a scholarship from the Selangor Chief Minister for eligible UPM students and UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Sculpture.

APPRECIATION CEREMONY @FRATERNITY CAMP 20/21

13-16 August 2021 • Virtual

For the first time, an appreciation ceremony for Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA) session 2020/2021 was held virtually. This is the appreciation ceremony in conjunction with UPM Fraternity Camp@Home programme. During the ceremony, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud acknowledged the students for their involvement commitment and volunteerism in delivering every programme and project organised by ARCUPM. From 13 to 16 August 2021 the students and their respective homeroom facilitators formed teamwork to complete given tasks such as making videos and intergroup debate. It is hoped that every knowledge and experience gained be useful for the future.



UPM 50 YEARS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN SELAMAT PAGI MALAYSIA SLOT

24 September 2021 – RTM, Angkasapuri

Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, UPM Vice-Chancellor and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud, Director of Alumni Relations Centre (ARCUPM), were invited to be guests for Selamat Pagi Malaysia slot on Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) to promote UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021). Warm gratitude to the media for their contribution and dedication in sharing UPM programmes and achievements through their respective channels to the community.

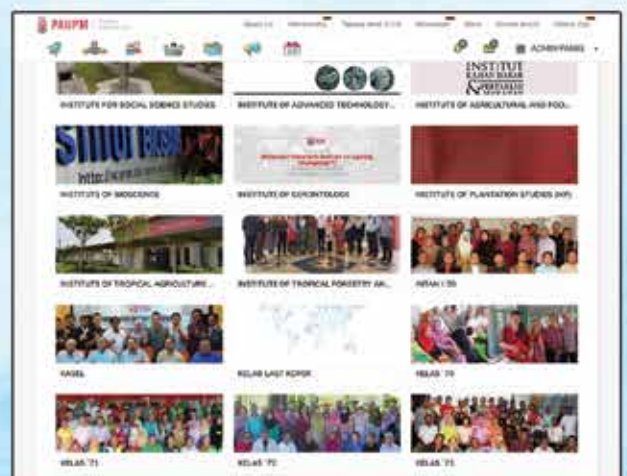
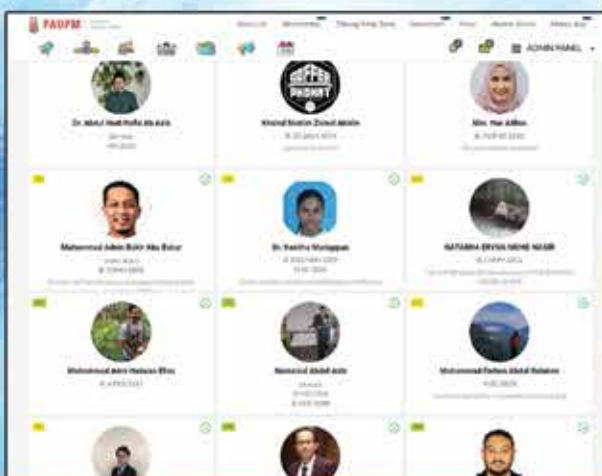




PAUPM PORTAL

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



Highlights

PAUPM VISITS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRIES

14 October 2021 • Putrajaya

PAUPM and Prof. Dr Khanif Yusop visited Dato' Haslina binti Abdul Hamid to discuss the implementation of the Agrologist Act in Malaysia which has received positive support from authorities as well as the stakeholders in the agricultural sector.



AN EVENING WITH YAM DATO' SERI DIRAJA SYED RAZLAN JAMALULLAIL

15 October 2021 • Restoran Astana Putra

A Hi-Tea event was organised by PAUPM to express their appreciation towards YAM Dato' Seri Diraja Syed Razlan Jamalullail who has served as the Patron of PAUPM for 2 years and has been actively supportive of PAUPM. We hope that YAM Dato' Seri Diraja Syed Razlan Jamalullail will continue to support the activities and events organised by the Association in the future.



MENTERI BESAR OF SELANGOR- PATRON OF UPM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

18 October 2021 • Shah Alam

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) visited the residential home of The Menteri Besar of Selangor, YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin bin Sharif to designate YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin as the Patron of UPM Alumni Association. YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin humbly accepted the responsibility bestowed upon him.





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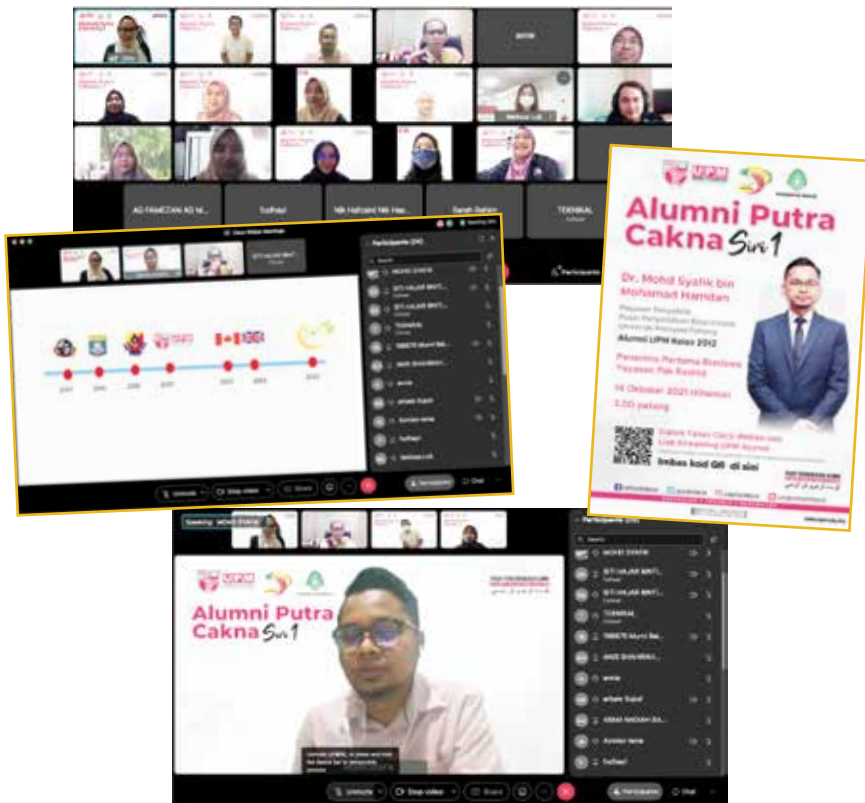
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Highlights



ALUMNI PUTRA CAKNA SERIES 1

14 October 2021 – Virtual

Alumni Putra Cakna Series 1 with Dr. Mohd Syafik Mohamad Hamdan, UPM Alumni Class of 2012 who was the first recipient of Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR). Dr. Mohd Syafik currently works at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) as a Research Officer at the Bioaromatic Research Centre, Universiti Malaysia Pahang. During the sharing session, Dr. Syafik also gave words of encouragement to the scholarship recipients to uphold the good name of the sponsors. During the session, Dr. Syafik also shared tips for students if they want to succeed, discipline, mentorship, networking, soft skills, skills and resilience are fundamental.

CONTRIBUTION FOR STUDENTS' DEVICE RELIEF

17 October 2021 – Astana Putra, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Alumni Class 75 (Chapter 75) donated RM2,000.00 under the Putra Cakna Programme: Alumni Care: Heart to Heart (H2H). The donation was handed over by chapter representative Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed as the President of Alumni Class 75 (Chapter 75). This contribution is very significant in conjunction with the UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations (1971-2021), Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) as the secretariat targets 50 students to receive device assistance from UPM alumni. The targeted groups are students from asnaf families as well as the low-income group (B40).



NATIONAL LANGUAGE MONTH IN SELAMAT PAGI MALAYSIA SLOT

29 October 2021 - RTM, Angkasapuri

In conjunction with the National Language Month, Alumni Relations Centre UPM (ARCUPM) was invited as a panel on Sayang Bahasa: Citra Keluarga Malaysia to discuss the importance of the national language, Bahasa Malaysia. At UPM, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman has officiated a Language Competition in conjunction with the National Language Month for youth and students to appreciate the national language.



AIMAC MEGACHILI PROJECT 2021 PRE-LAUNCH

6 November 2021 – Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah Residential College (KOSASS)

UPM Alumni Relations Centre (ARCUPM) held a workshop and pre-launching for AIMAC: MegaChili Project in hybrids at Rashdan Baba Auditorium and at the chilli fertigation site at Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah College (KOSASS). AIMAC MegaChili Project 2021 was officiated by ARCUPM Director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arba'ie Sujud. The event which started with a workshop and concluded at the planting site for the pre-launching ceremony and practical training. Assistant Agriculture Officer, University Agricultural Park (TPU) UPM, Encik Saiyyidina Hamzah Muhammad @ Mamat Alumni Class 2017, was invited as the panel for the project.

The workshop also focused on preparing the chilli cultivation so that the participants can better understand the proper fertigation technique.



UKHUWAH MEDIA SERIES 1

23 November 2021 - Kumpulan Media Karangkrak, Shah Alam

Ukhuwah Media was initiated to strengthen and maximise the cooperation between Alumni Relations Centre and media. Media play important roles for visibility and reach out purposes. The visit was welcomed by Kumpulan Media Karangkrak Deputy Chairman, Datuk Muhamad Nasir Haji Hamzah and team. Ukhuwah Media will continue its visit to other media centres.

Highlights



MALAYSIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES ALUMNI DAY CLOSING CEREMONY 2021

9 December 2021 - Universiti Putra Malaysia

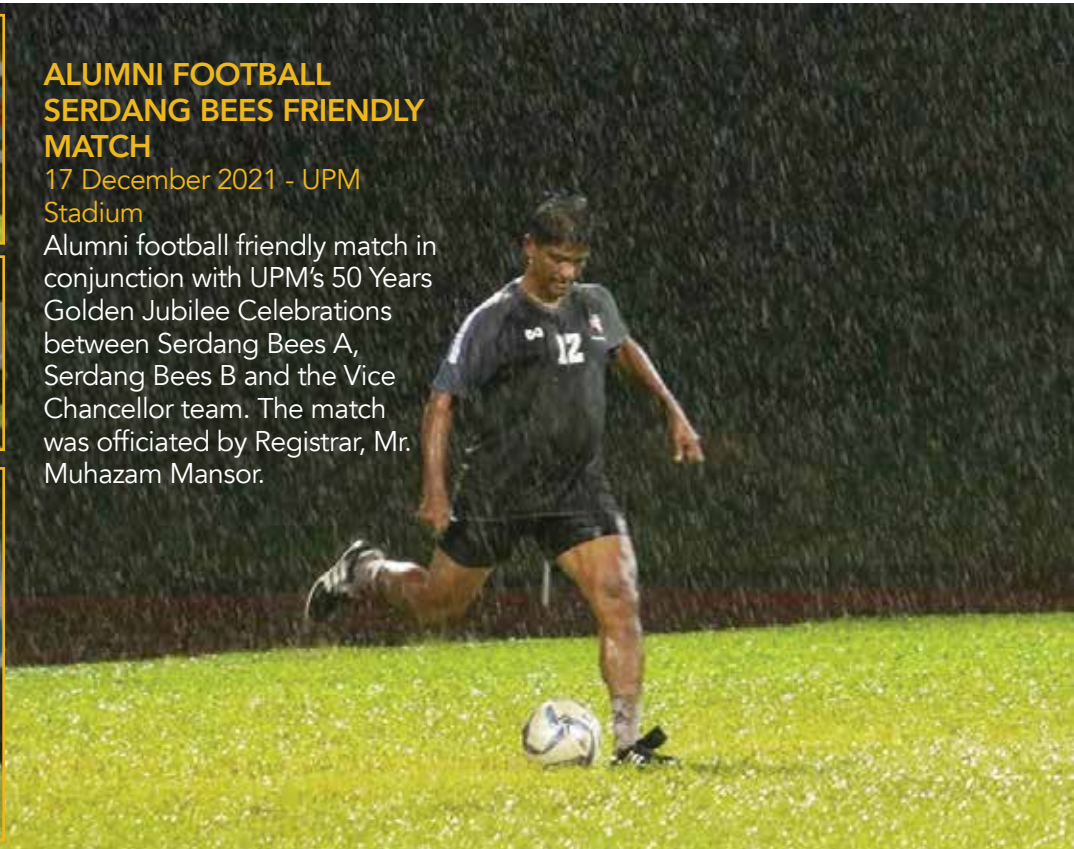
Alumni Relations Centre hosted the Malaysian Public Universities Alumni Day Closing Ceremony 2021 and it was officiated by the Ministry of Higher Education representative. The ceremony was attended by representatives from public universities respectively. 20 Malaysian public universities joined forces to establish the Alumni Council which became a platform and medium for alumni from public universities to gather and form unity in accordance to respective universities' aspirations.



ALUMNI FOOTBALL SERDANG BEES FRIENDLY MATCH

17 December 2021 - UPM Stadium

Alumni football friendly match in conjunction with UPM's 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations between Serdang Bees A, Serdang Bees B and the Vice Chancellor team. The match was officiated by Registrar, Mr. Muhazam Mansor.



UPM 50 YEARS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

18 December 2021 - Golf Club, UPM

UPM Sports Centre in collaboration with Alumni Relations Centre conducted a golf championship in conjunction with UPM 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The championship was to all including alumni.



PUTRA BAKTI: FLOOD AFTERMATH CLEANUP MISSION

24, 27 December 2021 - Agricultural Centre, Meru

Alumni Relations Centre staff and Chapter Student Ambassador (CSA) join forces for a flood aftermath cleanup mission at Meru Agricultural Centre, which is headed by Ahmad Nazri Abdullah Zawawi (Alumni Class 2000, 2015). The cleanup activities include store cleaning, discarding spoilt items like fertilisers, agricultural tools, collecting polybags throughout the premise and other cleanup activities.



MENGGAMIT SERIBU KENANGAN: ALUMNI REUNION (MEKAR) SERIES 1

30 December 2021 - Mini Auditorium, UPM

MEKAR Series 1 targeted the disabled alumni to celebrate and empower them towards UPM excellence in conjunction with UPM's 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations. This reunion also has successfully established UPM Alumni OKU Chapter in line with the OKU Campus Inclusive Awareness Month.

Giving back to UPM

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

For your information, all payment made will be channelled to the *Tabung Sumbangan Alumni*. Listed below are our ad rates.

No.	Ad Size	Price
1.	Full page (A4)	RM5,000.00
2.	Half page (A5)	RM3,000.00
3.	Quarter page (A6)	RM2,000.00



Contribute to Alma mater

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

Send your interesting story, thought and views to alumni@upm.edu.my.

Borang Keahlian Membership Form



Arahan: Sila lengkapkan dan kembalikan ke alamat seperti di bawah. Anda akan menerima kad keahlian anda dalam tempoh satu ke dua bulan

Instruction: *Please complete and return to the address below. You will receive your membership card within one to two months*

Maklumat Peribadi / Personal Information

Nama/ Name:					
Gelaran/ Title:					
No. Kad Pengenalan/ IC No.:		Jantina/ Gender :		Tarikh Lahir/ D.O.B.:	
Status Perkahwinan/ Marital Status:				Kolej/ College:	

Warganegara / Nationality

<input type="checkbox"/> Warganegara / Nationality	<input type="checkbox"/> Bukan warganegara / Non - Citizen
Nyatakan / Please State :	

Latar Belakang Pendidikan Di UPM/ Education Background in UPM

Item	Program/ Programme	Fakulti/ Faculty	Tahun Graduat/ Graduate Year
Diploma			
Bachelor			
Master			
PhD			

* Sila sertakan satu salinan sijil pengajian terkini di UPM /
Please enclose a copy of the current education certificate in UPM

Alamat Tetap/ Permanent Address	Poskod/ Postcode :
	Daerah/ District :
	Negeri/ State:

Pekerjaan/ Profession

Organisasi / Organisation :	
Jawatan/ Position:	
Alamat/Address	
No. Tel Bimbit /HP. No:	No. Tel /Tel No. :
E-mel / E-mail:	No. Faks/ Fax No. :

Alamat Perhubungan/ Contact address:

Alamat Tetap/
Permanent Address

Alamat Organisasi/ Organisation
Address



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🌐 Website : <http://www.paupmnetwork.my>

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