

a tradition of giving, a culture of bonding

SERDANG SUN

ALUMNI
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Agriculture
is a Core Business
of UPM

Once Upon
a Time under the
Serdang Sun

Alumni
Engagement
& Philanthropy

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A Stronger Alumni a Greater UPM

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 20th issue of Serdang Sun, the official alumni magazine of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The publication highlights the views and aspirations of Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry on the development of the nation's agriculture sector involving the cooperation of various agencies, including UPM. This issue also contains feature article on "Unleashing the Potential of Tomorrow's Generation" by Dato' Dr. Hajah Wasitah Hj. Yusof, Director General, Youth Skills Development Division, Ministry Youth and Sports, Malaysia.

It is hoped that you enjoy reading the story "Once Upon a Time under the Serdang Sun". The article is related the iconic 40-year-old tree in UPM before it fell to the ground. Absolutely, this sad news pulled at the alumni's heartstrings as many of them took their graduation photos featuring the tree in the background.

We also traced several of our many alumni on their lives and career journeys after graduation and we are very proud of their accomplishments and achievements.

Last but not least, Alumni Centre and UPM Alumni Association are committed to build and foster a lifelong relationship between the university and its graduates. Through alumni events, volunteer works, regular communication sessions and a variety of services and activities, we always open the door for their continuous involvement in the university life.

Agriculture is a Core Business of UPM

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Fazli Sabri
(Alumni Class 1999), Faculty of Human Ecology



To buttress up the development of the nation's agriculture sector involves the cooperation of various agencies, including the Higher Education Institutions which are considered as the main source in delivering agriculture expertise of the country. The Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub has laid out five ground objectives of the Ministry which could not be achieved without the support of academic expertise, notably those from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), who are the leading researchers in agriculture matters. The Minister also indicated that the recent establishment of the National Agricultural Advisory Council (MPPN) not only would enhance agriculture research activities within the country but also improve manpower relationship between the government and the academia. He also hoped that such cooperation would embolden the private sectors to commercialise these researches into a viable and profitable venture. He further added that he would like to see UPM as the leading research public university of the nation. The recent reintroduction of Agriculture Science in school system is one of the key government initial objectives in promoting the subject among the people to have a keen interest in the science subject related to agriculture.

SERDANG SUN:

Could Datuk Seri elaborate on what are the National Agriculture Policies under the present new government?

and creating new high value added food products will also be the main emphasis of the Ministry. As such the ministry has five main thrusts in realizing this objective within two years. They include the followings:

YB DATUK SERI:

"The ministry is committed in ensuring that the agro food industry remains competitive. The targeted group competitive capacity would be heightened by reforming the food supply sector through a greater use of technology such as mechanisation and automation. Marketing and exporting food products in new marketing areas

- to modernise and bolster up the production of agriculture products by stabilizing the supply and price of food by taking into account the various contributory roles of the paddy sub sector, ruminants and fisheries within the framework of five strategies and 16 initiatives.
- to intensify the private commercial investment on agriculture and

expand the export of agricultural products through three strategies and six initiatives.

- to elevate agriculture activities as a dependable and profitable source of income to farmers, breeders, fisherman and young agro entrepreneur through three strategies and nine initiatives.
- to spruce up the agriculture industry ecosystem so as to incorporate the modern agriculture practice, private sector investment and developmental activities of farmers, breeders and fisherman through five strategies and 13 initiatives.
- to reinforce the organisational structure of the department and agencies within the Ministry of Agriculture so as to upgrade the delivery system and governance.
- there are 18 strategies and 51 initiatives that are going on and will be implemented within the said timeframe. They are basically designed to modernise and build-up production, encourage the private sector investment, augment the farmers' income, revitalise the agro food sector ecosystem and so on".

SERDANG SUN:

Could Datuk Seri share with us what is the best mechanism in assisting the farmers and fisherman in more friendly way under these new agricultural policies.

YB DATUK SERI:

"The Ministry will institute various new policies and examine various aspects related to agriculture. For starters, we will study the various models in integrating land for agriculture purpose which will be announced by the end of the year. What is important is that the selected model should take into consideration the interest of the landowners, paddy planter, investor and the government. This land integration will be managed by one of the agencies under the

Ministry. Without a change in policies, the integration of land and the modernisation of the paddy planting sector would not materialise. Some of the changes are as follows:

- paddy farmers who have more than 10 hectare are entitled to subsidies.
- farmers are given the freedom to choose agriculture input.
- reassign subsidy assistance from a subsidy based on input to that of output.
- a change from a quota system production of authorised paddy seeds to one of an open market system.



Features

Subsidy provided by the government should be able to improve the livelihood of the farmers and fishermen. I notice that although we have given an annual RM2 billions subsidy, the lives of the farmers and fishermen are still the same. I believe by providing subsidy at the output stage, the farmers and fishermen would be satisfied and happy as their incomes will go up too."

SERDANG SUN:

From your own opinion Datuk Seri which countries of the world have that agriculture pursuits and achievements which we can emulate?

YB DATUK SERI:

"There are few such as Holland who is able to make an optimum usage of its agriculture land. On the other hand, China is able to undertake a large scale production of agriculture products. We can also learn from Taiwan who is well-known for its remarkable seedlings technology. Finally, Japan who has an excellent system of agriculture management."

SERDANG SUN:

How does Datuk Seri foresee the role play by the academia and Higher Educational Institution in helping the government efforts in developing the national agriculture industry.

YB DATUK SERI:

"The Ministry has established the National Agriculture Advisory Council (MPPN) which includes academics from the Higher Education Institutions who can undertake agriculture researches which not only can enhance the development of agriculture products but also I hope the private sectors could commercialise these researches into a viable and profitable entities."

SERDANG SUN:

What are challenges and obstacles in realising the Ministry's aspirations and intentions?



YB DATUK SERI:

"I guess I can sum-up three main challenges that we will be facing, such as, competition, manpower and the use of technology Competition in the Usage of Agricultural Land.

Malaysia agro food sectors largely depends upon conventional method of production that require the usage of large-scale land. The utilisation of land for agriculture has to compete with the needs to use the land for urbanization purposes, such as for industrial purposes, housing and commercial buildings. This result in less land available for agriculture usage and consequently less food supply. This, coupled with the imperfection of the weather idiosyncrasies conditions and unstable commodities prices in the world market add further constraints to our plans."

Manpower and Labour Productivity

As a whole society perceives agriculture endeavour as being categorised as 3D (*Dirty, Dangerous and Difficulty*). It does not give a lucrative incomes and farmers belong to the below 40% of the poorer section of the community. The farmers also depend on government assistance and agricultural subsidies to survive. As a result, the young people are not interested in agriculture pursuits. It is left to the old folks to work out the land.

The Use of Technology

The use of technology in agriculture can improve productivity, reduce cost of production and less dependence on human labour. However, the usage of technology is still not extensive now, as the cost of acquiring higher level technology is expensive and farmers are more comfortable in using conventional method of producing food. Another thing, although numerous researches have been done, the commercialisation of products and transfer of technology among the targeted groups are still low.

SERDANG SUN:

As an educational higher institution that is involved directly in the education and research on agriculture, what are your hopes and wishes for UPM?

YB DATUK SERI:

"I really want to see UPM develops as the leading institution in agriculture field and the pride of the nation internationally. It is an undeniable fact that higher educational institution can act as an impetus in the development of the agriculture sector."

SERDANG SUN:

In 1997, UPM changed its name from Pertanian (Agriculture) to Putra. Do you feel we ought to revert back to our original name of Pertanian (Agriculture) in accordance to the important of agriculture for the nation. Why?



YB DATUK SERI:

"The ministry consistently conducts researchers in the use of modern technology in agro food sector. The use of drone, precision farming and vertical farming could be taught to the youth who are involved in agro farming as they are savvier in the use of modern technology. The tasks are not labour intensive and less resemble features of 3D (*Dirty, Dangerous, Difficult*) jobs."

SERDANG SUN:

As a former alumni of UPM, what are your memorable experiences while in UPM?



YB DATUK SERI:

"I joined as a UPM student quite at a late age where I had already got a family and involved in political work. As a result, I have to balance my time between my study, my family and my political works. But I was determined to gain knowledge. At times I have to work late at night to do my assignments at cyber cafe, while waiting for an express bus to go to political party programs. These experiences were really precious to me as they taught me the important of acquiring education as part of my career advancement."

YB DATUK SERI:

"Although there was a name change in 1997, the main thrust of UPM is still agriculture. Other universities such as Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah (USAS) also offer studies in the fields of agriculture. What is important is not the change of name but progress made in the field of agriculture technology."

SERDANG SUN:

I understand agriculture subject would be reintroduced in the school system. What is the main rationale in reintroducing the subjects of Agriculture Science in Primary and Secondary schools?

YB DATUK SERI:

"For your information, at this moment, about 36 National Secondary Schools offer Upper Secondary Vocational Programme (PVMA) which provides courses in the field of gardening and aquaculture, supervised by the Educational Ministry. These programs are to ensure that students grasp the agriculture skills at the secondary school level. Later this programmes will be introduced in the primary schools. The program aims to attract more youth to be interested in agriculture."

SERDANG SUN:

How do you envisage the development of the nation agriculture industry within 5 years time?

Conclusion

Eighteen strategies and 51 initiatives with some in the midst of implementation and others are going to be implemented show the earnestness of the Ministry in accelerating the development of the nation agriculture industry. The mind-set that agriculture is associated with 3D (*Dirty, Dangerous, Difficult*) features should be embellished from the people perception through education from primary, secondary and up to the tertiary level. As the old Malay saying states that to know is to love. The reformulation of this mind-set, we hope will enable us to raise the level of the nation agriculture industry progress which constitutes 12% of the nation's Gross National Product.

Unleashing the Potential of Tomorrow's Generation: Wasitah's Aspiration

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



Youth development is the primary focus in the Malaysian Youth Policy 2015- 2035 for the next 20 years. The Malaysian Youth Policy 2015 aims to strengthen the economic development towards the well-being and innovativeness of its young citizen to rank among the top countries in the world. One of the dedicated officers promoting this agenda is Dato' Dr Hajah Wasitah binti Haji Yusof, the Director General, Youth Skills Development Division, Ministry Youth and Sports Malaysia. She is one of the aspirants and inspiration-movers in the advancement and popularity of youth development programmes. She is also the person responsible for the numerous achievements of the ministry, be it national or international levels.

Personality and Thoughts

Dato' Dr. Hajah Wasitah, who hailed from Johor Bahru, Johor has served for 33 years in various capacities in the Public Services Department, Malaysia. She has extensive experience in youth development and sports recreation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from Universiti Malaya, Master of Arts in Recreation, Park and Leisure Services Administration-Outdoor and Environmental Education degree from the Central Michigan University,



research universities in Malaysia, good standing internationally, strong sense of community and collegiality, staff and students who constantly striving for excellent and conducive learning environment."

To further elaborate her thoughts on the culture of giving back to the *alma mater*, her vision for advancement of youth development in Malaysia as well as globally, three members of the editorial board of Serdang Sun paid a visit at her office. Headed by Dr. Mohd Mursyid Arshad and assisted by Ms. Siti Hajar Rozaidi and Mr. Mohd Sufian Ismail, they spent 50 minutes garnering her ideas regarding youth development in Malaysia.

USA and a doctorate from Universiti Putra Malaysia in Youth Studies. Dato' Dr. Hajah Wasitah joined as Youth and Sports officer in year 1986.

As a proud alumnus of UPM, she emphasised that the university should meet the Malaysian youth aspiration: establishing good leadership and governance, contributing to expanding and sustaining the body of knowledge through collaboration with students, alumni, scholars, practitioners, communities, industries and government agencies. The basis of future success for UPM depends on continuing its capability to invest and make the most of its people and stakeholders.

"I will always remember that it is UPM that elevates my thinking process

and development since student days to where I am today at the highest potential where I wanted to be. I can feel the strong family bonding between students and lectures, among classmates, together through thick and thin. Yes, of course I am proud of UPM, a place of learning and gaining knowledge" stated Dato' Wasitah. She also made known the many inspirations close to her heart, top of the list being - *the culture of giving back to the alma mater*. She added, "Choosing UPM sealed my destination to specialise in youth and development areas as UPM is the first university in Malaysia that offered this programme, and now it is time for alumni like me to return the gesture in unleashing the potentials of Malaysian youths. Other reasons for choosing UPM are it has commendable academic reputations being one of five

Followings are some of the excerpts from the meeting;

a. UPM policy with government agenda on development of youth,

"Well I think the effectiveness of youth in higher institution is also directly dependent on the planning of student development programmes in the campus. The ability of youth-adult partnership techniques in developing youth and graduate abilities can be seen more clearly if the process of knowledge development, attitude and practice are cultivated. Yes, of course in Ministry Youth and Sports Malaysia, we are looking at main three aspects, that is, youth development, sports development and skills development, but if you round them with these three

Features

factors. They are always about attitude, skills and knowledge. In addition, the ministry wants to develop youth holistically.

b. high marketability graduates,

"In my opinion as an alumnus, UPM has already achieved international recognition. UPM is one of the five research universities in Malaysia. The academicians and researchers from UPM have come up with many firsts that has brought up UPM's name over the years and will definitely continue to do so in the future especially in youth development. In terms of highly marketable graduates, we can find UPM alumni in almost every organisation like government sectors and private industries in Malaysia and also in non-



c. employment,

"Graduates 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, they can succeed. I think our new generation should also fully utilize all the knowledge, experience and skills acquired in UPM to try something new. They need to be creative and innovative. My personal view is that, knowledge and experience can be learn and earned anywhere, not only in lecture halls. Young people need to equip themselves with high skills if they want to compete and succeed in their respective options. You should be passionate about what you want to do."



government organisation, volunteers and professional youth worker. I am confident UPM will keep on improving in tandem with other universities and produce highly marketable graduates. By maintaining the University's core strengths, UPM is able to enhance the quality of degree, research and postgraduate programmes, and attract more young people to the campus."

She opined that for UPM, leadership and governance must also be translated into outstanding institutional

performance, which means motivating and supporting communities and societies. UPM will continue to encourage academicians and researchers to provide professional services to the communities especially Malaysian youth. What is important now for UPM is to continue to strive in branding it to be the best university globally, as good branding like youth development and youth studies will make UPM a world player that is highly respected, she added.

“However, the youth development process is not just a simple or easy knowledge transmission.”



d. challenges in nation building,

“However, the youth development process is not just a simple or easy knowledge transmission. It is not just a measurement of youth skills itself but it focuses on how far true student quality incorporates the Positive Youth development (PYD) elements in youth development processes. My point of view as a practitioner in youth development, the utmost priority is to ensure effective process is incorporated in the development of youth leadership so that the process of producing new leadership talents among youths can be implemented accordingly. To me, the dynamic student management and strategic youth resource development that can be accessed by students in UPM, will continue the leadership legacy thus ensuring that the future development of the country agenda is led by high-calibre leaders.”

e. contribution of alumni,

“In terms of administration, UPM has a good administrative setting for alumni. Maybe, we can zoom into the subject of employability and skilled based, so that we can focus more on giving input from alumni who are actually dedicating their fields on employability and skills,

because we still see, from alumni point of view, that the area you want to reach out to alumni is still broad based. UPM can engage alumni to a specific need to help students gain experience in that particular field.”

f. achievement and sustainability,

When asked of good advice for future students, she said that having the passion ignites the interest in learning and discovering knowledge. It certainly can bring positive energy and change the perception of how you look at things and the work that you do. UPM is the place that allows you to try new things, to succeed or fail and definitely help in one’s success, but you also need to be proactive, ask questions, be critical and take advantage of all that UPM has to offer. Dato’ Wasitah stressed that as a university student, one must not restrict oneself to attending classes only. “This is the period in life that helps to equip students with the relevant soft and communication skills to improve their personality in the workforce.”, she concluded.

Related news

The Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia Pacific programme focuses on “values-based, ethical leadership”. This year-long programme selected young leaders from Asia Pacific countries from various fields - education, media, social activism, aviation, property development and others - but all have the same drive to create positive social impact.

The Obama Foundation Leaders selected from Malaysia include:

- Siti Aishah Hassan Hasri - an education programme that provide comprehensive sexual education to girls ages 9-12 years of age.
- Vivienne Chew - respects the rights and dignity of immigrants.
- Cheryl Ann Fernando - training support and leadership skills for local school principals.
- Rashvin Pal Singh - sustainability and creative education to achieve collective impact.
- Amalina Ariffin - youth advocate, youth empowerment and environmental justice.

Alumni Engagemet & Philanthropy

DR LING TUNG KING, a 1983 alumnus

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain
(Faculty of Human Ecology)



DR Ling Tung King is a Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) alumnus who graduated in 1983. Despite leaving UPM for more than 35 years ago, his love for the university that taught him the meaning of life will never fade away. Thinking that he needed to enhance knowledge in agriculture, he came to Serdang to study at UPM in 1978. He now believes that choosing UPM to study veterinary medicine was a right thing to do in his life.

Veterinary medicine as a field of study was not popular in the early 1970s. He said "I was criticized for going into a career that was considered to have no future. However, I was determined to continue and complete my study in good time because of my deep interest to and love with the subject matter". Dr Ling explained this to Associate Professor Dr Mohd Izani Mohd Zain during an interview with Serdang Sun, the UPM Alumni magazine.

Dr Ling went to the university in Sedang in 1978 to enroll in Veterinary Medicine program.

Campus Life and Learning Experience

Dr Ling explained the exciting experiences gained during his student days at the university. He was indeed very grateful to the Sarawak Government of the day for providing him with a scholarship to study at UPM. He said "My scholarship then was worth RM 4000 a year, while those getting from the Public Service Department (PSD) received only RM 1800 a year. Using the money from the scholarship, I bought a motorcycle and a camera."

During his student days, Dr. Ling was also very interested in photography. He took many pictures of the beautiful scenery in UPM campus. Selected pictures of the campus sites were displayed at the residential colleges for sale. This goes to show that Dr Ling interest in entrepreneurship has begun while he was still a student in UPM. He said "Anyone interested in the pictures could buy them. For each picture, I made a profit of 10 cents."

Dr Ling wanted to be an all rounded student while at UPM. He took part actively in sports such as participating in table tennis competition. Notwithstanding, he made friend with everyone, regardless of race and color. He added, "In UPM, we used to be very close with each other. At that time, there were not many students in my class. Malays, Chinese and Indians were all my friends". Dr Ling admitted having difficulty mastering the Malay language at the beginning of his study at UPM. He is very grateful to Mrs Latifah who taught him the language patiently and her teaching effort paid off when he passed the Malay language paper in the final examination.

Dr Ling claimed to be the first entrepreneur among the UPM graduates in veterinary medicine. He said that employment opportunity for graduates of veterinary medicine in government services was then very limited. Therefore, getting involved in business was the best option for him at that time.

On graduation, he introduced the concept of mobile veterinary clinic. In 2003, despite facing with many problems, he successfully established mobile veterinary services in Sarawak and Brunei. By 2007, his company was chosen by UPM Bintulu campus as one of the places for practical training for Diploma in Animal Science and Production program. Later the company he owned extended its services to Miri, Sarawak. This shows that veterinary medicine service has a bright future that provides good returns.

In addition, he feel that adventures in motor touring is very unique and he encourage more Malaysians to participate in this event.



Features



Bringing the alumni back to UPM

He was asked what could be done to attract UPM alumni back to the university. He said a special day should be organized in Serdang, dedicated mainly to the alumni. "Call it UPM Day, if you so wish. We invite all the UPM alumni in the country to the main campus for a celebration in collaboration with the industry. On that day, we will have seminars, career talks and others that benefit everyone."



Dr Ling himself has taken initiative to hold reunions with the alumni with expenses paid by his company. He hopes that other alumni have the same passion and aspiration to continue contributing to UPM, their *alma mater*.

When asked his opinion on the "We Love UPM" sculpture project, Dr Ling said it started with an idea from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini Ideris. The sculpture of that nature in UPM is a landmark site to promote and bring tourists to its main campus in Serdang. Dr Ling brought along other alumni to raise fund for the project to be realized. In October 2017, the "We Love UPM" sculpture at Dataran Putra, UPM with 2 m height and 0.2 m width was completed. It was via the contribution of cost, ideas and design from UPM alumni. It was indeed a great achievement for UPM alumni.



Filler Article #WeLoveUPM

Fast, dynamic and ever-evolving, the digital era has transformed the way we communicate unlike any era before. With smartphones, tablets and other gadgets, we're now able to "plug in" virtually whenever we desire. Nowadays, students have grown up surrounded with technology and it plays a vital role in their lives. So it is no surprise that before, during and after their time in university, they depend on Social Media channels for gathering contents for thesis and communicating messages to friends.

Universities, for all we know, can benefit greatly from interacting with their diverse audience via Social Media and the foremost reason is branding. Schools are brands and their primary interest is to share information on what differentiates them from other schools. By using Social Media, universities like UPM can engage their students efficiently and share valuable information that build their brand presence online.

One example is when students are searching for a suitable institution, they take to Social Media and other online channels and depend on contents posted by the schools, current students, peers, etc. The responsibility lies with the universities to engage on Social channels and share relevant contents with the prospective students on how they differ from other institutions.

Knowing how huge Social Media affects the name by promoting and branding the university, Persatuan Alumni UPM (PAUPM) with the collaboration of UPM Alumni Club of Landscape Architecture (KASEL) come out with the new project: "We Love UPM" Sculpture. This "We Love UPM" Sculpture is a symbol of UPM Alumni to show their love and gratitude to the beloved university as well to giving back to their *Alma Mater*. The idea of constructing the sculpture came from UPM Vice Chancellor: YBhg. Prof. Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris. It was designed and constructed by the Alumni Club of Landscape Architecture led by LAr Amos Ng (UPM Alumnus 2000), with the estimated cost of about RM 23,000.

The landmark sculpture was supposed to be built in front of the Chancellery Putra Building (the main administration building of UPM). However, due to lack of space in the proposed area, the sculpture was finally built at the Pusat Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PKKSSAAS). The new location is excellent as it is surrounded by green landscape and can easily be seen from the main road. The construction of the sculpture was completed just before the 2017 UPM Convocation. The site became an instant hit with the new graduates attending the convocation that year. They shot nostalgic

photographs with the sculpture as the background in the company of their loved ones.

Uploading the photographs in Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc., and posting the #WeLoveUPM via their own Social Media, would promote UPM reputation as an excellent center for teaching and learning in Malaysia - UPM has targeted about 100,000 posts via this mode of promotion. The afore-mentioned practice can be used by UPM as a marketing tool and to promote the university as a tourist destination.

PAUPM understands the importance of networking, especially among the students who have graduated with UPM. Social Media allows the university to stay connected with their alumni by which information on what is going on in the campus will be shared worldwide. The success and academic performance of the university will be known to others. The success stories would inspire the current students and UPM alumni to reach greater heights academically or otherwise. Additionally, the university can leverage their alumni to create other opportunities such as internships for current students, career mentoring, etc. PAUPM would like to thank all the donors (individuals, chapter/groups) in making this project a success.

Once Upon a Time under the Serdang Sun

Writer:
Prof Dr. Shamshuddin Jusop
(Faculty of Agriculture);
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arifin Abdu (Alumni Class
2002), Faculty of Forestry

This is the story of my life. Being a tree of substance, I grow up in the midst of modern facilities of what was once popularly known as Multi-media Super Corridor (MSC). The area is the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hub of Malaysia, otherwise known as the 'Nerve of the Nation'. This place, i.e. Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), where I called home, stands proudly in the midst of other academic achievements forefront in the country. I was born and bred in an atmosphere of good will, living among the best brains in academia. I was born not only to serve my kind but also mankind and other living creatures.

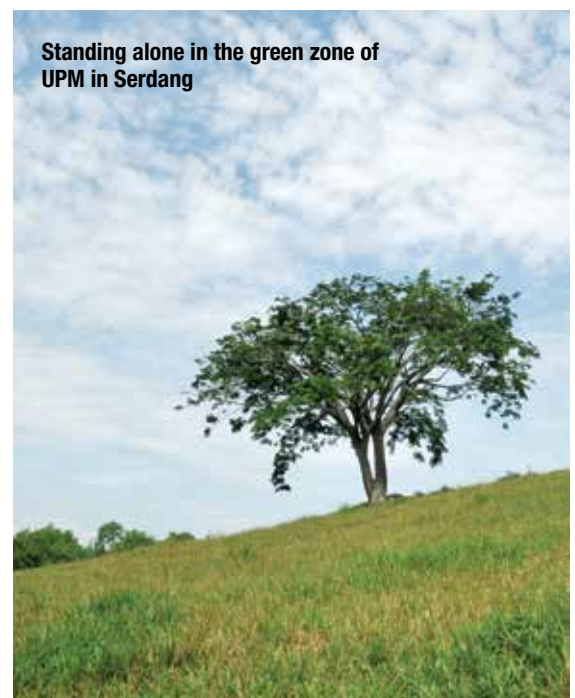
What am I actually? Can you take a guess based on the short description above? Now let me save your time and energy and explain myself better.

Let's just say it's all began in late 1970's, where I was planted in the lonely Field 16 in UPM, Serdang. Living alone – but I was not alone. I have streams of visitors who came near me to take photographs. Being the only Gigantic Tree surrounded by meadow and grass meant for livestock has never been fun. I know what you are going to say to me, 'no man is an island'. Learning this fact, I have long before embrace my true purpose in life as the main oxygen provider, shelter to those underneath me (that includes human and the cattle), improving air quality, conserving water and preserving soil, while making friends with the wildlife (in fact that is my best attribute). Normally, human call me Elephant-Ear Tree and I am pretty sure that my other name in Latin is *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*. I'm going to show you a picture of me in a short while to just understand myself better and perhaps it gives you the idea of my loneliness. Although food is not hard to obtain, I would really love to share more on how I managed to obtain the optimum food needed for my rather healthy growth ever since I was first planted.



UPM students stretching their arms to breath fresh air under my shade

We are talking about my favorite subject, i.e. food just now aren't we? As we all know, food to me means carbon dioxide and water. Carbon dioxide is freely given to me from the air and water is obtained from the ground or rain water that comes around once in a while. To build up my muscular forms, I absorb most of the nutrients through my roots. Technically, in a hot summer day, water from my leaves can be easily transported out via evapo-transportation. In this process water is transported up via my trunk and branches, bringing along with it the nutrients needed by my body. As simple as it may sound to you, but trust me in reality the process is quiet complicated and only experts on the subject matter can understand it fully.



Standing alone in the green zone of UPM in Serdang

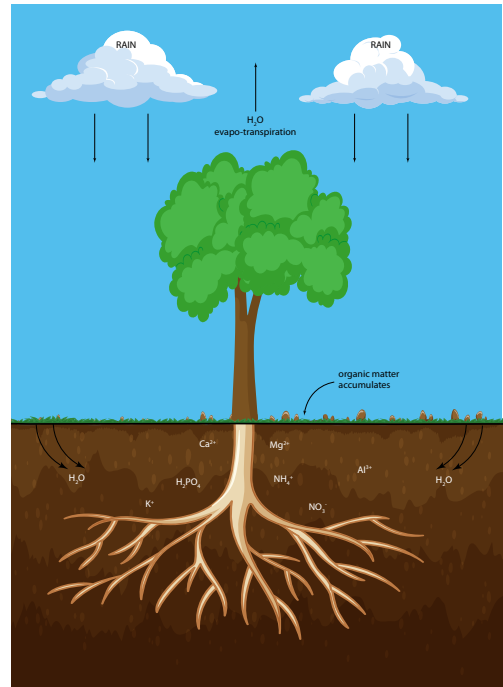


Providing shade for cattle during a hot day

You can guess from my handsome facade and muscular built that food is quiet sufficient here. One thing for sure, any unwanted material that could do harm to my body will be eliminated immediately. The presence of this 'poisonous material' in my body can create havoc to my defense system which not only leads to deteriorating my growth but even worse to my death. Therefore, it is vital to always stay alert and healthy throughout my life so diseases won't come my way. If for some reasons (touch wood) that I am attacked by a pest and becomes weaker by the days or weeks, it is a true sign that I have succumb to a disease that eventually kills me. Although it is a slow process,

the chance of occurrence is still high and unfortunately I happened to bear witnessed the symptoms within me in late 2018.

Little did I know that it was the start to my own demise? I went on to enjoy the attention given to me by visitors without knowing that I'm actually suffering from a severe disease. By the time I realized that I was sick, it was already too late to cure it, i.e. white root disease. But again by the time you are reading my story, I am most probably be dead. Don't be sad just yet, that is a harsh reality of life that we all have to accept and swallow. I want to share the glory of my time while I'm still strong and fully admired. I want



The nutrient cycle

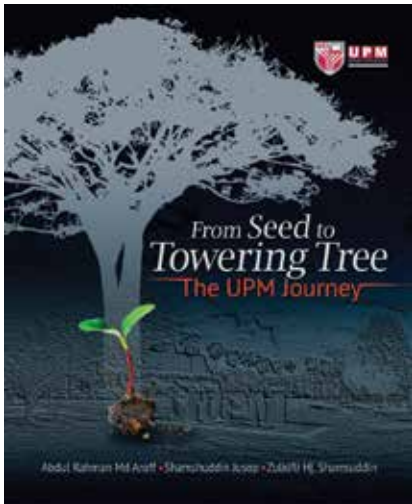
to be remembered as the muscular Gigantic Tree in UPM Farm, not the dying tree suffering from white root disease.

Let me take you to a journey where dreams do come true and my purpose in life is not just absorbing carbon dioxide and providing fresh air to mankind and other living things in the vicinity of my area. In a community saturated with agriculture and forestry, I was admired by those who crossed my path in Field 16. My admirers are among the professors, students and visitors from within and outside Malaysia and others who simply admired my structure. Yes, apparently I



Students taking a long walk to their future after their convocation

Features



From Seed to Towering Tree: The UPM Journey

make a very good background photo for most of my admirers. Not only that, film's producers in the country had taken the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular scenery in the undulating landscape of UPM Farm. Of course they took nostalgic shots of me to appear in their films. That is not the least of it yet, a picture of me even appeared on the cover of a book written on the history and achievements of UPM. Life is awesome indeed, well until you have met your purpose in this life.

The best moment in my life was the appearance of Lisa Surihani, the Malay silver screen actress, who came here to shoot some scenes featuring myself for a popular movie entitled "Legenda Budak Setan". Isn't she a beauty that I now understood why she is called a Malaysian sweetheart? Come what may, Lisa Surihani is not just an actress. In my personal tree opinion, she is more than just an actress, i.e. down to earth and knowledgeable too, a true combination of beauty and brain, if you like. Lisa Surihani is just the beginning of the many more highlights that happened to me in that glorious year of 2017. She reminds me of the Malay legendary star of the yesteryears, Latifah Omar, a combination of true beauty and wisdom. Being a part of their lives gives me another purpose in life which is to live to the fullest.



A special ceremony held at KLIA2 to launch AirAsia's flight having UPM icon on its Air Bus 320-200



The full view of the AirAsia Airbus showing the UPM iconic tree

For all intents and purposes, I was immortalized by AirAsia owned by Tony Fernandes on August 2, 2017 when a picture of me was painted in style on one of its planes - the Air Bus 320. The idea was to portray UPM as a university of international repute. Imagine flying sky high on AirAsia's plane where anyone can see me in its full glory. The livery depicting the words "Universiti Putra Malaysia", its motto "With Knowledge We Serve" and icon, Elephant-Ear tree designed by the Faculty of Design and Architecture were painted on AirAsia's Airbus A320-200 aircraft with the registration number 9MAQD. The feeling is too overwhelming and renders me speechless, to say the least. I could not explain in words how happy I was to be part of the winning team. It was indeed an honor

to be among the contributors of UPM academic success.

When I was alive and kicking, I kept thinking about a poem composed by William Blake entitled 'A Poison Tree'. The emotions that captured in the poem moved me to a point like a dagger stabbed into my heart. You need to understand, if I wanted I can secrete poison via my root system and kill the enemy passing my way. When I die, my body will perish and decompose into organic matter together with the disease within me. This root disease fungus can live in my roots even after I died or harvested. The fungi will continue to decay my stump and major roots, thus returning nutrients to the soil and provide habitat for a wide variety of animals.

So you see, there is always rainbow after a thunderstorm with or without me. We are all God's creatures, we co-exist together in this atmosphere; hence, the idea of fighting amongst each one of us for survival just doesn't sit right with me.

This is indeed a bad news to me, somewhat shocking, when later in 2018, I was diagnosed with white root disease by the experts in the field. I was attacked by a fungus named *Rigidoporus lignosus*. This had impaired my ability to absorb sufficient nutrients from the ground to keep me going - alive and healthy in the future. The experts did what they possibly could to save me; alas, it was not successful. On January 6, 2019, I fell onto the ground by the

I am after all God's creation and when He, Allah, decrees of my death, so it happens. This is mentioned in the Holy Quran in Chapter 55, verses 26-27:

The Merciful (Al Rahman): 55, 26-27.

All who lived on earth are doomed to die. But the face of your Lord will abide forever, in all its majesty and glory.

(Translated by N.J. Dawood)

As said and promised in the Holy Quran, there will be a time when every creature and all within the earth and universe will come to an end. The day is known as the 'Doomsday'. I pray that

we do not have to witness that fateful day. Enjoy our life while we still can and never overfeed yourself as there is a limit to everything that we can do in this world.

Field 16, the place I called home, is within easy reach from field as well as soil/plant nutrition experts. I wonder, if my disease is discovered at the earlier stage, will I be cured and continue living till today? I have accepted my fate on the same day I have the courage to tell you my journey. I know now that even if my disease was discovered early or I simply managed to be recovered or heal, it won't happen unless Allah wills it.



This was what I looked like after my roots were attacked by a fungus



I fell to the ground by the blowing wind during a storm

blowing wind during a thunderstorm. You know what they say? You can run, but faith and death will hunt you when you least expect it. Although the truth about my disease is too hard to be swallowed, I will keep on fighting until my last breath. That is the spirit I hold on to all my life.

I learnt from the hard way that nobody leaves this world alive. Forty years of living in an urban jungle has been the longest period of time for a tree like me. In reality, it is only a tiny fraction of the age of the universe which is about 13.8 billion years.



A close up view of me under the threat of death late December 2018

Features

Like all Great Stories, mine has almost come to an end. Before I end this story, I would like to bring your attention to a special friend who dedicates his life to soil studies. He respects me and my other friends like no other. He has my standing ovation for all the hard work in nurturing plants and trees that serve mankind ever since time immemorial. I'm sure this is a fact that we all have to live with. Trees, especially a special one like me, take up carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air and release oxygen (O₂) during day time. In the process, they grow to sustain their life and human benefit from it by way of breathing fresh air that keep them alive and healthy.

In another note, the good friend of mine has written a special poem dedicated to me as a form of gratitude to what I have done all this while. A farewell poem to mark his respect for my contribution as a symbol of hope and as an Iconic Tree (for UPM) where students, staff and visitors once felt in love with. Playing a major role in the eco-system in Serdang Farm, I'm sure the least you can do is to

remember me where and what I once was. I have parked below the poem made by my dear friend for you to cherish his wonderful words.

As much as it all began, we have come up to the ending part of my story. Before I bid my goodbye to all of you,

Farewell to arm

*When the sun is up
When the light is on
The day has begun
Life is back in business*

*When the light is dim
When the job is done
When the curtain is down
It is time to go home*

By J Sham

One way ticket to heaven, my final destination



I would love to take this opportunity to thank every each one of you for the love that you have shared with me these past 40 years. Was that you the guy who proposed to the love of your life under my tree branches? Was it you who hug me lovingly and pour some water although I didn't need it? Was it your tiny little feet jumping around me, telling me how big I am that somehow you want to grow up like me? I'm sure we pretty much made a great team together and as much as I wanted to stay longer, my time has finally come to meet my Creator. I hope I have a soft spot in your big heart.

With that last paragraph, I bid goodbye to all of you. Thank you.

*All who lived on earth
are doomed to die. But
the face of your Lord
will abide forever, in all
its majesty and glory.*

*(Translated by N.J.
Dawood)*



In memoriam

Allahyarhamah Hajah Masitah Arsad



Writer: Hjh Normah Ibrahim; Hjh Sa'odah Hj Junit
(Alumni Class 1975)



Innalillahi wainailaihi roji'un
("Indeed we belong to Allah,
and indeed to Him we will return" -
Al-Baqarah:156)

On the morning of 5 October 2019, we received the sad news of the passing of a dear friend from Kelas '75, Hajah Masitah Arsad. She passed away at 7.20 am at the National Cancer Institute (IKN), Putrajaya, after a year of battling with breast cancer.

Her death has truly left a profound impact in our hearts. Our dear friend has gone and we will no longer be able to hear from her again. Accompanied by relatives and close friends from near and afar, Allahyarhamah was buried at Tanah Perkuburan Islam in Bandar Bukit Mahkota, Kajang, shortly after Zohor prayers. She leaves behind a husband, three sons, three daughters-in-law and 10 grandchildren.

In 2012, she and her husband, Dr Ibrahim Mohamed, as members of a committee under Persatuan Alumni UPM (PAUPM), made a concerted effort to track down our fellow college mates from Kolej Pertanian Malaya who had completed their diploma

courses in 1975. This was done to get them to participate in a "specially arranged convocation" that had long been delayed for 38 years since the completion of their studies. They scoured almost every part of the country, including Brunei, to locate our former colleagues. The team members were eventually able to track down 650 from a total of 1,264 "graduands" of 1974, 1975 and 1976. However, 500 of them came for the unique occasion called "Majlis Apresiasi Mentari Serdang" during UPM's 36th Convocation. The historic event was held on 16 October 2012 and also witnessed by our own children and grandchildren.

Allahyarhamah always gave her all

As the Secretary for the Persatuan Alumni UPM of Class 1975, she had been the prime mover who constantly kept the "Chapter" active. Not satisfied with gathering members for the Alumni 75 group into an active network, she had also enlisted the members' wives and widows into a group known as "Klasik 75" or "Kelab Sokongan Isteri Kelas 75".

Even when she was not in the best condition health-wise, she was never-

tiring in gathering members together either for the purpose of attending official events, visiting members who are unwell or simply just a meeting to catch up with one another.

In recognition of her tireless work for Class 75 Alumni Chapter, in particular, and also for PAUPM, in general, she was awarded the 'Anugerah Apresiasi 2018' on 6 October 2018, in conjunction with "the Tenth Sirih Pulang ke Gagang' Dinner" function. The event was hosted by Pusat Alumni UPM with cooperation from PAUPM.

Although Allahyarhamah is no longer with us, she will always be remembered for her kindness and a person with positive vibes. Her "always-on-the-go" efforts serve as a reminder for the remaining members of Persatuan Alumni UPM Kelas '1975 to keep the "Chapter" moving forward despite the numerous challenges facing us.

May Allah SWT have mercy on her, accept her good deeds and enter her into Jannatul Firdaus. Aamiin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

***Hajah Masitah Arsad - Serdang Sun
Writer and Editor (2015-2018)**

Contributions

SULTAN IDRIS SHAH FORESTRY EDUCATION CENTRE (SISFEC)



Writer: Mohd Farhan Shahrin (Alumni Class 2008)
Faculty of Forestry

SULTAN IDRIS SHAH FORESTRY EDUCATION CENTRE (SISFEC) was inaugurated on 21st March 2012 by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj. SISFEC is located in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, Puchong, which is approximately 20 kilometres from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) main campus at Serdang. The forest reserve is within easy reach from Putrajaya, Cyberjaya, Petaling Jaya and Shah Alam. It is strategically located between Kuala Lumpur and the Government Administrative Capital of Putrajaya. Under the jurisdiction of the

Selangor State Forestry Department, Air Hitam Forest Reserve is granted 99 years of long-term lease agreement, commencing in 1996 by the Government of Selangor to Universiti Putra Malaysia for the purpose of education, research and extension services in the field of forestry.

SISFEC helps fulfil the mission and vision of the Faculty of Forestry via achieving specific goals. First and foremost, it enhances the learning skills of various courses in the field of forestry. This will expose students to practical training in the field, which is in line with UPM's goal of improving the quality



the population of the area by providing clean air to breathe. It also acts as a local flood mitigation facility, and offers a natural source of clean water.

Sultan Idris Shah Forestry Education Centre can be considered as an on-site class and laboratory for the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia. It is meant mainly for the students taking courses in Forestry Science, Parks and Recreation Science, and Science and Wood Technology. It is also being used by the academic staff of UPM for research and extension activities, particularly on the environmental studies, as well as for school children and the Klang Valley communities.



The academic facility is a model of a forest education centre, which is managed systematically by professionals in various fields of forestry. It is built with the concept of being nature-friendly; thus, its beautiful surrounding is retained. The construction of the main complex, costing 18 million ringgit, began in October 2009 and was completed in September 2011. Four blocks were built, namely the Administration, Lecture Hall, Laboratory and Workshop Blocks. The Lecture Hall has a capacity of 180 people in one sitting and there is a Look-out Tower where one can have a great view of the beautiful forest surrounding the buildings. Each building block is equipped with laboratories, Internet and WIFI facilities. The facilities so available (including

accommodation) at SISFEC have created opportunities for both local and international students/scholars to conduct research on the forestry and the environment.

To produce competent students with vast knowledge in forestry, practical training is vital. Forestry teaching involves preparing students to become a forester, either at professional or semi-professional level. Normally, the experience and education obtained are from lectures, practical work, practical training and visits. Most of the courses in the field of forestry need a forest area for practical and demonstration purposes in the field. With SISFEC, the Forestry Faculty is able to design, develop and organise various activities in the field of forestry more effectively

that otherwise is, in a more organising manner and on a regular basis.

In the effort to raise public awareness on the importance of forests to conserve nature, SISFEC has organising and planned many activities to disseminate information and knowledge as well as to encourage the public to join conservation activities. The increase in knowledge and understanding of Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, especially among the students, staff of the university and the public, will be enhanced through well-planned activities. One of the popular activities is organizing camping and group activities for these people to have a feel of the forest atmosphere and to enjoy the beautiful surrounding in the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve.

International Students Mobility Programme, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Writer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Raba'ah Hamzah
(Alumni Class 2013); Faculty of Educational Studies



The social mobility program conducted at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is to promote human resource development for students. In line with the aspiration and educational philosophy of the Ministry of Education Malaysia, UPM is moving towards achieving the second national mission of enhancing knowledge and innovation capabilities to nurture first-class mentality. The National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN) was formulated with a vision to transform higher education in the context of making Malaysia an international hub of academic excellence. This transformation is with two important objectives; to extend the interaction among university students, and to provide opportunities for students to experience different learning environments internationally. The PSPTN has listed two major core areas related to mobility programmes, namely intensifying internationalization programmes and promoting lifelong learning.

– Explore Taj Mahal,
India (2012)

A. Mobility Programmes in UPM

The mobility programme at UPM has been in existence since 2000. It has established a bilateral relationship with international institutions to carry out mobility programmes in UPM and offers our students the opportunity to undertake similar programmes abroad. To date, more than 100 memorandum of understandings (MoUs) signed by UPM to implement student and staff mobility programmes with universities around the world such as those in Australia, Austria, South Africa, the Philippines, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Germany, Korea, Oman, France, Sudan and the United Kingdom. Some of the student mobility programmes in UPM are:

1. Student exchange mobility programmes is a programme involving undergraduate students, implemented through student exchange for one or two semesters (one year) and transfer of programme/course study credit points. The success of students completing this exchange programme will benefit the programmes currently underway at UPM and enable them to share their experiences with their classmates. Students can obtain financial assistance from UPM and the participating universities for accommodation, transportation, and student allowance. Additionally, students can get sponsorship from any agency.



Oxford Centre, Oxford University, UK for Islamic Studies.



Work with MEND community (Muslim Engagement and Development) at Central London Office (2017).



Contributions

2. Short-term mobility programmes are those that are run for specific purposes such as obtaining more information about a particular field. Graduate students are more likely to take the opportunity to participate in this program. For example, the research equipment at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia has provided latest knowledge advancement in medicine.

3. The practical training mobility programmes runs for two weeks to six months. An application for a practical mobility training programme at the Commonwealth Secretariat (CS), London should be made one year before the date of the practical training. Students may apply directly to the CS or through the university. A complete application form attached with the resume, must be accompanied by an official letter from the university. Students can apply for assistance from the CS such as accommodation, allowances and airfare. The selection process will be conducted by CS. Malaysian have to compete with other candidates from different countries.

4. Industrial mobility training programmes offered to students engaged in industrial trainings (IT). Students must apply for their industry training at any agency related to their field of study. Students can conduct IT from two weeks to six months. UPM students are encouraged to apply from international agencies with branches in Malaysia. Some industries offer the facilities such as daily allowances, accommodation and job security insurance.

5. Visiting mobility programmes of less than 2 weeks, are frequently chosen by students at UPM. Students need to submit a recommendation of approval by the UPM Student Affairs Division. The proposal paper should cover several key areas such as title, date, place, recommendation, and objectives of the visit, background of study, learning outcomes, budget estimates, tentative programmes and committee members. Students can plan to generate income to cover the programmes travel expenses. All visits are handled by the students along with the programme coordinator consisting of UPM staff.



At the seminar on Tackling Domestic Violence through a National Lens: A Comparative Perspective on Asia by Shailaja Fennell, second from left (2017)



Mobility participant, sit in lecture in University of Brunel, Middlesex, London (2008)

B. London Interfacing Programme Mobility

The Department of Professional Development and Continuing Education, Faculty of Educational Studies has organised the London Interfacing Programme (LIP) since 2001. The aims of this programme are to develop strong characters, enhance high quality human capital and acquire knowledge and experience internationally. The university encourages students to expand their views through trips abroad to enrich their knowledge and experience.

The aims are:

1. to explore the curriculum and philosophical underpinnings in the areas of human resource development and education in selected universities through interaction with the academic staff and students in these institutions.
2. to explore opportunities for exchange of studies, internship programme, and youth development programmes under the Commonwealth Youth Secretariat in London.
3. to conduct visits to youth centre agencies, research bodies, resource centres, and other institutions that provide training programme for youth.



Mobility programme in China with University Beijing, Prof. Wu Zong Yu (2011)



Contributions

At the end of the programme, students are able to:

1. enhance their knowledge on education and human resource development, general knowledge and soft skills,
2. widen the opportunity to practice soft skills and organisational skills,
3. harness their skills in organisational management and develop strong leadership traits.

LIP also focuses on the knowledge transfer. The students attended academic discourses at several institutions such as Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, University of Brunel, University of Manchester, University College London and Warwick University. They also participated in Youth Work Week at the CS of London, participating in community services at the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS) and attended activities by Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND), United Kingdom (MEND).

LIP provides an experience for students to live and study in another country for an extended period of time. Students who were involved in this programme often remarked about their 'life-changing' experiences and appreciated the importance of networking and developing interpersonal skills.



Mobility programme in Kampot Cambodia (2013)



Explore Paris, visit Eiffel Tower (2008)



With Dean of Faculty Education, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia (2014)



With Erasmus student in University of Sarajevo, Bosnia (2014)

Conclusion

International mobility programmes are an important global agenda for university students as they provide greater exposure to the way of life, culture and sub-culture, social systems, the development of technology, education and the economy of the international community. This programme enables the establishment of international networking and extending partnership between UPM and the various universities they visited. The programme also provides an opportunity for the higher education institute involved in establishing international networks and recognition of specific programmes at relevant universities.

The main focus is to help improved the soft skills, and at the same time educate the participants in areas such as communication and leadership. The participants, hopefully can act as resource linker, problem solver, catalysts for change, manager, consultants and process helpers for change and other skills needed required by the job markets. The participants will return to their respective universities with knowledge, experience, cultural understanding, maturity and lifelong learning from the countries they visited. Mobility programmes are also one of the top ten challenges in the UPM Strategic Plan (2014-2020). Overseas experience is a first-hand method of cultural adoption that can positively impact the human resource development in tandem with UPM's vision and missions.

International Alumni Ambassador

Writer: Noor Mohamad Shakil Hameed
(Alumni 2001 & 2010); Corporate Strategy
and Communication Office



The presence of increased number of foreign students in UPM annually, particularly in post graduate studies, indicates that it is becoming the popular choice as a reputable international university. UPM provides a high quality education fulfilling the needs of the world market to students from 80 countries. In 2019, UPM is listed among the 15% of the world's best universities and in the 4th place of the ASEAN's top universities according to QS World University Ranking 2018/2019.

Due to its irrevocable international repute, UPM is able to produce graduates that eventually will contribute significantly in the development efforts of their home countries. The graduates will hold key positions in the private and public sectors who would be able to determine the well-being of their nations.

In order to know more about these illustrious alumni who are an asset to their home countries more closely, this edition will introduce two international UPM ambassadors, notably, Professor Dr. Muhammad Firdaus from Indonesia (Alumni Class of 2000) and Zahir Beekun from Mauritius (Alumni Class of 2004).





Professor Dr. Muhammad Firdaus

Professor Dr. Muhammad Firdaus was a UPM doctorate graduate of 2000. He is now a lecturer at Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB). He is an excellent role model as he had achieved numerous awards and recognitions at a very young age, such as being the youngest professor in 2013.

This shows that the high quality of education in economic he received from UPM, enabled him to rise rapidly to the top. His leadership quality was also proven when he was made the Deputy Dean of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) between 2009 to 2018. In 2016, his academic mettle was further acknowledged when he was given the KI and WIPO awards by the Vice President of Indonesia. This is to acknowledge his patented software invention that was able to analyse horticulture business.

Due to his excellent academic expertise and know-how, he was also appointed specialist consultant to various established organisations. Among them, since 2014 he has served as consultant on Indonesian agriculture products to World Trade Organisation (WTO) and also as expert adviser to Indonesia National Productivity Institute.

In reflection of his time in UPM, Professor Muhammad Firdaus said he gained enormous valuable knowledge while doing his PHD at the Faculty of Economics and Management. Particularly, he gained the technical expertise in using the econometric model, which enabled him to conduct research works more effectively.

He hoped UPM should indefatigably continue and expand this exemplary legacy of international research collaboration which in the long run would also cajole UPM global reputation and ranking to greater heights. His success and achievements of other Indonesian UPM alumni have encouraged and inspired more Indonesian students to study in UPM.



His leadership quality was also proven when he was made the Deputy Dean of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) between 2009 to 2018. In 2016, his academic mettle was further acknowledged when he was given the KI and WIPO awards by the Vice President of Indonesia.

Contributions

Zahir Beekun

Zahir Beekun, who is from Mauritius, is UPM alumnus of 2004 class and a graduate of Bachelor of Computer Science, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FSKTM). Using his computer science background and after going through certain phases of gaining experience and knowledge, he was able to establish his own company Royal Cyberspace Ltd. that dealt in information technology services and products.

To Zahir, the UPM motto "With Knowledge We Serve" has a special meaning to him in his quest for survival as one should not cease learning even after one had obtained one's scroll. Knowledge obtained from textbook and experience gained in UPM were priceless as a guide in charting his future.

Zahir has fond memory of the graciousness and helpfulness of the lecturers and staff in UPM when he was studying there. They were without doubt never arrogant and rude. Although 15 years had passed he still recollected the sweet memory when he was there. He loved his alma mater, eternally emotionally attached to it and always kept track on its progress and activities through the social media.

While studying in UPM, he was not only excellent student but also a competent debater. His debating team for the 10th Residential College, won the championship in the inter-college debating competition. He was also a part-time French tutor at the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication. As a result he had a lasting friendship with some of the staff there.

He longingly missed his time in UPM and hopes a branch campus could be established in Mauritius sometime in the future.

Conclusion

As a world class higher educational institution, UPM should bring into special focus its international alumni. As their number grows, they would become assets to UPM. More international chapters could be set up globally and these international alumni could become ambassadors of UPM to future students of their countries. Through an international solid network UPM could also set up a strategic international research collaboration and staff and students mobility programmes. Therefore, UPM should provide more space, opportunity and platform for these international alumni to come back to serve their alma mater.





“A Home Grown Forests from Mapping the Diversity in Sarawak”

-Dr. Affendi Suhaili

Writer: Nurfatim Afza Mohamad Murad (Alumni Class 2014 & 2018); Faculty of Human Ecology

Dr. Affendi Suhaili is currently the Assistant Director and Head of Systems Application and Development Unit (SADU) at Forest Department of Sarawak, Kuching. In 1989, he graduated with a Diploma in Forestry, from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Bintulu. He then joined the Forest Department of Sarawak which he served for 10 years. In 2000, he furthered his study at Universiti Putra

Malaysia (UPM), Serdang and in 2002 graduated with a BSc Forestry majoring in Forest Harvesting. He returned to his former Department and was attached to the Forest Engineering Unit until 2004 when he took the offer to pursue a PhD study with the Faculty of Forestry, UPM. He was awarded the Doctorate in Precision Forestry (Hyperspectral Sensing of Tropical Forest) in 2007.

Apart from serving the Forest Department of Sarawak, he frequently shared his knowledge and experience through lectures particularly on Remote Sensing and GIS to local institutions of higher learning. His other achievements included the development of Hyperspectral Sensing Solution for Oil Palm Industry in 2015. The technology had since been used locally and abroad with the support of established and dedicated team at the Forest Department of Sarawak. In addition, the agency also played a lead role in the operationalisation of the hyperspectral sensing technology in managing the forests from mapping the diversity of the natural forests to disease monitoring of planted forest stands and aerial surveillance for combating illegal logging.



Hyperspectral technology in details

The emergence of hyperspectral technology in the last decade has seen the increasing application of hyperspectral data and image for forest resource management and planning. Although applications over temperate and semi tropical forest regime have shown success, doubts are still raised on the ability of the system to effectively classify the rich floral diversity of the tropical rainforest landscape. In this study, the separability of tree species as observed at canopy scale using the hyperspectral data set was evaluated. Results from both taxonomic and individual species mapping of the tree composition found at the natural and old growth forest plot had furthered shown the potential of extending the system for operational level mapping of the tropical forests.

Skills and Expertise

- Remote sensing
- Classification
- Machine learning
- Pattern recognition
- Neural Networks and Artificial Intelligence
- Image Processing
- Computer Vision
- Signal, Image and Video Processing
- Image Segmentation
- Image Analysis

Dr Affendi had great passion in his career. The challenges, the adventure and varied tasks pushed him to higher level with new knowledge to improve the well-being of mankind that would benefit the society at large.



He was awarded the Excellence Model Officer Award in 2017 for the Management and Professional Category.

He had 9 Research Article

- Estimation of Acacia Mangium Aboveground Biomass And Wood Volume Through Landsat 8
- Mapping Vegetation Cover Of Acacia Mangium Plantation By Age
- Estimation of Plant Biomass and Carbon Stock for A Juvenile Reforested Mangrove Stand Using High Resolution Imaging Spectrometer
- Sources of Canopy Chemical and Spectral Diversity In Lowland Bornean Forest
- Supplementary Material 1
- An Integrated Geospatial System for Forest Monitoring And Enforcement
- The Performance of Maximum Likelihood, Spectral Angle Mapper, Neural Network and Decision Tree Classifiers in Hyperspectral Image Analysis
- Application of Airborne Hyperspectral Sensing for Tropical Forest Mapping
- Mapping of Planting Progress in Industrial Tree Plantations of Sarawak Using Broad Band Spectral Indices



During his years at UPM, Bintulu, he was taught a great deal about forestry, field works and managing people. He admitted having to adjust with many changes a decade later when he was doing his degree course. His fellow students were generally younger and looked up at him and called him "Abang Long" (Big Brother) for advice and help on the use of certain applications.

He was indebted to many of his lecturers, like Ismail Adenan, Dr Siti Rubiah, Dr Manohar Mariappan and Prof Madya Dr. Zaki whom he called his "Old Gurus" for patiently coaching and nurturing the love of forestry to him and 14 of his batch mates, year 2000-2002. Others include Prof Dr. Ainudin, Prof Dr. Awang Noor and Prof Dr. Faridah Hanum who helped in the preparation of his PhD dissertation. There were others too from the Faculty of Engineering, such as, Dr Helmi, Prof Rashid and Habsi. However, something he remembered well and missed a lot was the morning "Teh Tarik" and "Nasi Lemak" with fellow students and staff under a tree at the central location of the faculty.

As a sign of gratitude to UPM he was willing to take part in the knowledge transfer programme/session to students and campus community as a Guest Lecturer. As an industry expert, he was also a cooperative partner in UPM projects or outreach programmes in the field of industrial research, in nurturing students talent and intellectual capital. Most of all, he would consider being a mentor and provide guidance to students interested in pursuing his major. His motto is "To Give Your Best in Whatever You Are Entrusted With - Identify Inefficiencies and Find Ways to Improve It".

“Never a Boring Day for Clinical Psychologist”

Dr. Nor Sheereen Zulkefly

Writer: Nurfatim Afza Mohamad Murad (Alumni Class 2014 & 2018); Faculty of Human Ecology

Nor Sheereen Zulkefly was born on November 19, 1984 and raised in Selangor. In her childhood and her teen days she always accompanied her mother, who was a lecturer at the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). She took interest in the field of abnormal psychology that stemmed from her mother's area of expertise in developmental psychology.

In 2006, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Development at UPM. She was then offered a position as Tutor at the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UPM. Her deep interest in abnormal psychology led her to further her study in Master of Clinical Psychology at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). After earning her degree, she practised at Porta Kabin UPM, Hospital Kajang for nearly two years.

Dr. Sheereen then furthered her Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology at the Australian National University (ANU) in 2010. In 2013, she graduated with a PhD and upon her returned she was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist at UPM.

Initially, Dr. Sheereen recalled, it was not easy when she wanted to take a degree in Human Development at the Faculty of Human Ecology, UPM. Her parents strongly advised her to become a medical doctor. However, Dr. Sheereen was more interested in psychology and becoming an academician. Despite her parents' objections, Dr. Sheereen made sure that she excelled in every subject throughout the 3 years of her undergraduate programme. She obtained a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.0 for six semesters in a row. For her hard work, she was awarded with multiple awards.





During her first year of study she was awarded the Syed Kecik Award in 2004 - the award given to first year students who received CGPA 4.0 every semester. Upon graduation in 2006, she earned the award of the Alumni Gold Medal, Dean's Award, First Class Award, Royal Education Award, Wanita UMNO Gold Medal and Pingat Tunku Award.

To date, it has been six years Dr. Sheereen has served UPM as a Senior Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist. She also writes on various subjects relating to children and adolescent abnormal psychology, specific attachment relationships and psychological health

and well-being. These articles and papers are published in various types of publications be it journals, conference proceedings, and books. She has 18 journal articles published, 3 books, 6 chapters in books, 15 proceedings, 22 other publications.

As a Clinical Psychologist she specialises in children and adolescent abnormal psychology. She sees various cases such as autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, school refusal, intellectual disability, learning disorder, conduct disorder and many more. Her clinic sessions are conducted weekly at the Adult and Child Psychiatric Clinic at

the Hospital Pengajar UPM (HPUPM). She finds it very satisfying and exciting as each session brings new experience for her. She is concerned and willing to help these special children or teenagers who seek her support. She hopes she could share more of her experiences to assist them.

As an alumna of UPM she always takes the opportunity to contribute to the activities of the University. Using her skills and expertise she is willing to share her experiences and knowledge with students and UPM's staff in programmes organised by them.



Campus Portraits

Megat Marwan bin Megat Nizar is a UPM alumnus from the class of 2012. He was the winner of the Alumni Gold Medal at the 35th Universiti Putra Malaysia convocation ceremony, graduating with a Bachelor of Education (Guidance and Counselling) from the Faculty of Educational Studies, UPM.

“Having Faith” *in Counselling* - Cikgu Megat Marwan

Writer: Nurfatim Afza Mohamad Murad
(Alumni Class 2014 & 2018);
Faculty of Human Ecology

In addition to graduating with first class honours, he was also the Vice President of the Student Council of the Chancellor Student College. At faculty level he was active in the counselling club. Among the major activities that he was involved in was the two-week student mobility programme in Melbourne, Australia in 2009. He was also a participant and organiser of numerous seminars and programmes involving various universities in Malaysia.

His career as a guidance and counselling teacher began at SM Iskandar Sultan Iskandar in Mersing, Johor. In 2016, he moved to Sekolah Menengah Agama Persekutuan, Kajang. His main source of inspiration was derived from his mother, Rosnah bt Mat Soom. Megat was also involved in community services. He had been involved at a national level in the rehabilitation, flood and relief programmes in Kelantan. He was also active in community works in his area.

Throughout his career as a teacher, he faced many challenges. However, he managed to overcome them as he had received good training during his student life. Some of the challenges were the various types of behaviour and attitude of students and parents.





Throughout his career as a teacher, he faced many challenges. However, he managed to overcome them as he had received good training during his student life.

On top of being a counsellor, Cikgu Megat was also assigned the duty of warden in his current school. This brought another set of challenges and complexities in educating the young students in his care. But his firm discipline and gentle approach allowed Megat to face the challenges head-on.

Megat has published a number of books. Notable titles include "Easy to Succeed" and "Muslim Student Therapy". These books are widely available in boarding schools throughout Malaysia.

He will be starting his Masters studies in September 2019 on a full government scholarship. He intends to focus on the area of religious counselling or 'spiritual guidance'. It is his belief that there are many unique elements in this form of counselling yet to be explored.

His message to everyone is to always be grateful, work hard, be aware that success is not easy and capitalise on the opportunities that present themselves. Don't let negative mindsets or attitudes get in the way to achieve success while enjoying life to the fullest.

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Highlights *of Alumni Activities*

(January-December 2019)

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COURTESY CALL BY UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

11 Jan 2019 - PAUPM Office

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) accorded a warm welcome to the visiting Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Alumni Association (PAUTM). The delegation from PAUTM was welcomed by the Deputy President, Dato' Raihan Sharif and Exco member, Haji Zainal Abidin Yahya. The PAUTM was represented by the Honorary Treasurer, Dato' Ahmad, Manager, Mr. Shamsul and Executive Officer, Ms. Liyana. The visit focused on exchanging ideas regarding various activities in the two associations.





**CHAPTER STUDENT
AMBASSADORS
FRATERNITY CAMP**

14-17 Jan 2019 - Port Dickson,
Negeri Sembilan

The objective of the camp is to create and instill leadership qualities among students, especially when organising activities. It also provided exposure on public speaking with prudent techniques. The efforts made were not only helping students take more competitive in their studies, but also enhanced their soft skill to cope with challenges in the outside world.



**PLANTATION COLLOQUIUM:
OIL PALM AGRONOMIC PRACTICES**

23 & 24 Jan 2019 - Prima Saujana, Kajang and
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation)
Building

The colloquium features Dato' Dr. Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajudin, a leading facilitator in the field of management and oil palm research. Acknowledging the needs of the oil industry that is vital to the Malaysian economy, the 2-day programme was organised for Farm Managers, Assistant Managers and plantation executives to learn more about the latest developments in the use of minerals and fertilizers for oil palm cultivation to maximise yield. It is also a great platform for participants to discuss their experiences and exchange ideas on managing oil palm estates in a challenging current environment.

Highlights



PAUPM'S VISIT THE PRIME MINISTER MALAYSIA

28 Jan 2019 - Putrajaya

Invitation to officiate and deliver a keynote address at Forestry Seminar was extended to the Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at his office. Headed by YAM. Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail (President) and accompanied by Dato' Syed Abd Rahman Abd Rashid (Treasurer), Prof. Dato' Dr. Nik Muhamad Nik Majid (Forestry Seminar Secretariat) and Dr. Mohd Zin Jusoh (Forestry Seminar Secretariat).



TRACE @ZON SELATAN

28 - 30 Jan 2019 - Melaka and Negeri Sembilan

It was a four-day event in leveraging alumni networking to sustaining a long-term relationship, exchanging expertise and delivering the message on the importance of alumni to support UPM. The ACUPM delegation also visited a few agencies in Negeri Sembilan such as Department of Wildlife and National Parks, RISDA, Polytechnic Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. In Melaka, they visited Department of Forestry and RISDA for *Temu Mesra Alumni*.





ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KOLEJ 17

13 Feb 2019 - Kolej 17, UPM

Alumni Serdang Heritage @Kolej 17 managed to attract 200 participants. Discoursing on the journey of UPM alumni in receiving and generating knowledge at university level, were three panelists; Dr. Maiza Tusimin, Dr. Navin Kumar and Dr. Soo Man Jun.



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2019

13 Feb 2019 - Dewan Besar UPM

The festival was organised by the UPM International Student Association in collaboration with the UPM Student Student Affairs Division. The UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) donated RM1,000.00 and helped to raise funds from nine foreign embassies in Malaysia.

The festival consists of four different segments of cultural events, cultural shows, country shows and map shows. Twenty-two countries participated in the festival and participants had the opportunity to enjoy their traditional food with friends, family, and colleagues.



Highlights



UPM ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

16 Feb 2019 - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Building

UPM Alumni Mentorship is divided into three sessions, first was the Partnership Alumni Mentorship Forum. The second was the Pitching Competition was divided into four themes namely Youth and Volunteer, Youth and Technology, Youth and Entrepreneurship and Tomorrow's Leader. The last session was Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) - Leadership and Communication Skills by Facilitator NLP, Ms. Siti Norain Samad and Ms. Kamariah Derasol.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TEACHING MALAY AS THE FIRST LANGUAGE (PBMP) CHAPTER: LANGUAGE AND HUMANITIES EDUCATION DIVISION

16 Feb 2019 - Faculty of Educational Studies

This reunion was part of PBMP Chapter activities to strengthen bonding and friendship among members. A total of 40 alumni were present.





PLANTATION COLLOQUIUM: COCONUT CULTIVATION & MANAGEMENT

18 & 19 Feb 2019 - Prima Saujana Kajang and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Building

This two-day programme is designed for farm managers, assistant managers and plantation executives to learn more about the latest developments in coconut cultivation and management practices. Coconut cultivation is now considered as an important segment of the plantation industry as it is considered the second most important crop after oil palm. The discussion also touched on issues related to the use and importance of coconut oil in the market. The coconut industry is also one of the industries that has the potential to contribute to the country's socio-economic incomes especially in eradicating poverty among coconut farmers. On top of that, the coconut industry is important to meet the needs of the fresh coconut industry and the country's processing capabilities as well as being able to generate new sources of industry growth such as the Virgin Coconut Oil industry. To meet this need, PAUPM will be launching a series of coconut colloids in September 2019.



PROGRAM ANTI DADAH PERINGKAT NEGERI SELANGOR KALI KE-4

23 Feb 2019 - Dewan Besar, UPM

ACUPM opened up Alumni Counter for updating alumni information during this programme. Almost 50 alumni were updated their current information.

Highlights



REUNION ALUMNI SECOND COLLEGE

23-24 Feb 2019 - Science Marine Centre, Port Dickson

This reunion was part of alumni Second College outreach activities and a tribute to their College Principal, Tuan Haji Mahfoor.



ALUMNI SHARING KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SERIES 3

26-28 Feb 2019 - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Building

ASK is an opportunity for UPM students and alumni to share and discuss career fields, lectures, internships, volunteer activities and other experiences within and outside UPM. Six alumni were invited as speakers; Mr. Koh Mui Han, Managing Director, Change Dynamics Consulting; Mr. Adidi Tamin, Culture Officer, Student Affairs Division; Mr. Azerai Azmi, Lecturer, Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Pendidikan Teknik; Mr. Loh Kwong Yik, Farm Manager, Walston Agriculture Advisory and Management; Mr. Husalshah Rizal Hussian, Deputy Director, Alumni Centre UPM; Ungku Azlan Shah Ungku Chulan, CEO, QTF Consulting Sdn Bhd.





THE MEDIK PUTRA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GALA DINNER

2 Mar 2019 - Bangi Golf Resort

The Medik Putra Alumni Association Gala Dinner is the annual Medik Putra event. Dato' Raihan Sharif was invited to officiate the event. About 100 alumni of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences attended. This event also included a briefing of the Teacher's Hospital UPM (HPUPM) by Dr. Muhammad Mohd Isa, Director of HPUPM.



FITNESS VIBES ALUMNI (FiVA)

3 March 2019 - Dewan Besar, UPM

There were various activities lived up to enliven the FiVA programme including coloring contest for children aged 4-12 years, street soccer opens to alumni and campus residents, penalties, Fitness Dance competitions involving instructors who are UPM alumni; Zin Nat, Zin Kay, Zin Wady, Zin Shidi and MTZF Yatt, exhibitions from various agencies and stalls. Visitors also have the opportunity to donate blood and undergo free medical checkup. For the colouring contest was received 145 participations from kindergarten and primary school children who blew our judges away with their drawing and colouring skills. The team from Gohet Gostan became the winner of the Street Soccer 3x3 when they beat Al-Ikhwan in the final. Meanwhile, Divas Dance Queen became the winner of the Fitness Dance Contest.



Highlights

SHOWCASE JALINAN ALUMNI @ZOO TAIPING SERIES III

22-24 Mar 2019 - Zoo Taiping, Perak

Alumni Centre and Zoo Taiping remained committed in organising the Showcase Jalinan Alumni UPM @ Zoo Taiping and Night Safari series III as one of the community programmes to establish alumni-community relationships around Taiping, Perak. There were various activities and competitions have been successfully organised such as Fitness Dance, Treasure Hunt and Coloring Contests. During this event, tree-planting was organised as an effort to preserve the environment. This programme is a platform that could help instill the awareness for the environment among alumni UPM, students as well as the community. This Showcase involved more than 300 participants among alumni, student and local community.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPM ALUMNI FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

27 Mar 2019 - Kolej 10

Physical Education UPM Alumni organised football tournament aimed to reminisce their memories during study time in UPM.



TOWN HALL SESSION ALUMNI INDUSTRY SERIES VI

28 Mar 2019 - Auditorium Rashdan Baba

The programme started with a forum "Looking to a Brighter Future Through Better Leadership" by three panellists; Dato' Rozalila Abdul Rahman (General Director Lestari Prestasi Sdn Bhd), Mr Nik Nazree Nik Abdul Rahman (Senior VP of President & CEO's Office PEMANDU Associates) dan Mr Andrew Lau (Founder & CEO Think Codex). The forum was moderated by Mr. Krishnan Mariappan, Head of Department, Planning and Governance iDEC, UPM. The event aimed to ensure that alumni members continue contributing the university and remaining close to one another as well as their *alma mater*. It was truly an enjoyable and memorable occasion for the 150 guests who attended the programme.



REUNION DINNER INDIAN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION (IGA)

30 Mar 2019 - Royale Selangor Club

This reunion dinner aims to forge close relationships between members and provide a platform to exchange ideas, views and information.



Highlights



YPR LECTURE SERIES

10 April 2019 - Auditorium Radin Umar

Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) coorganised with UPM Alumni Centre successfully conducted a YPR Lecture Series delivered by Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid. This lecture titled "A Kampong Boy's Experience in Scaling Global Heights" attracted 300 guests included campus community, students, alumni and also friends of UPM.



FREE MEAL ASSISTANCE DELIVERY CEREMONY

12 April 2019 - Faculty of Human Ecology, UPM

Sixty needy students received food assistance such as milk powder and cereals donated by Promac Enterprises Sdn. Bhd. The donation was handed over by Dato' Raihan Sharif, Vice President of UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM). Also present at the event were Haji Ghazali Salamat, the Secretary General of PAUPM, Ms. Shamila Samian, Head of Student Welfare and Discipline Management Division, Student Affairs Division, UPM, and Mr. Awang Muhammad Aisamuddin Awang Jidel, WAZAN's representative.



HI-TEA ALUMNI OF FACULTY OF DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE (FRSB)

13 April 2019 - Bangi Golf Resort

Hi-tea Alumni of FRSB aims to create close relationships between members and provide a platform to exchange ideas, views and information.



TRACE ALUMNI DISTRICT @ZON TIMUR

12-17 April 2019 - Pekan, Maran, Rompin

The programme includes activities such as sharing of the past and upcoming alumni events. It emphasised the importance of alumni to continue giving the support, whatever they can, to the *alma mater*.



Highlights



TIPS ON MANAGING STRESS

20 April 2019 - Auditorium Rashdan Baba

In conjunction with the 2019 Annual General Meeting, a lecture titled "Tips on Managing Stress" was presented by Prof. Dr. Rahmatullah Khan, Sultan Idris Education University. This lecture successfully engaged participants in addressing stress issues by identifying tips/methods for managing stress effectively.



PAUPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 April 2019 - Auditorium Rashdan Baba

A total of 52 members attended this meeting. For the first time, the Committee Members were elected by secret balloting in accordance with the revised Association Constitution in 2017. The posts contested were President, Deputy President and nine Committee Members. Successful candidates were announced by Dato' Dr. Hashim Abdul Wahab who was the Chairman of the Election Committee.



The new line up of PAUPM Committee Members (2019-2021):

President: Dato Raihan Sharif

Deputy President: Mr. Mohd Norashedy Ab Rashid

Secretary General: Hj Ghazali Salamat

Treasurer: Dato' Syed Abd Rahman Abd Rashid

Assistant Secretary: Ms. Norfadliza Minhat

Committee Members:

- Hj. Zainal Abidin Yahya
- Mr. Goh You Chang
- Mr. Mohd Husaini Amir Nik
- Mr. Fahmi Azar Mistar
- Rohani Md. Yon
- Dr. Hj. Raja Othman Raja Ismail
- Ir. S. Kumar A/L S. Subramaniam
- Mr. Shatesh Kumar A/L Sangar
- Mr. Ahmad Qadri Basri
- Dr. Ibrahim Hj. Mohamed
- Prof Dato' Dr. Mohd Azmi Mohd Lila



TRACE ALUMNI DISTRICT @ZON BARAT

22-26 April 2019 - Perak

The programme achieved its objective to meet UPM alumni who are currently working in Perak. ACUPM visited 10 organisations; Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Gerik, Kolej Vokasional Gerik, Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Hulu Perak, Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Kuala Kangsar, Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Kuala Kangsar, Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh, Kolej Vokasional Seri Iskandar, Kolej Pertanian Titi Gantung, Bota, Pejabat Pertanian Daerah Hilir Perak and Kolej Vokasional Pertanian Teluk Intan, Perak.



ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KOLEJ 5

23 April 2019 - Kolej 5

Alumni Serdang Heritage @Kolej 5 managed to attract 200 participants, discoursing on the journey of UPM alumni in receiving and generating knowledge was presented by two panelists; Dato' Jahlilawati Abu Bakar and Mr. Suhail Mohamed Kamaruddin.

Highlights



ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KOLEJ 2

23 April 2019 - Kolej 2

Alumni Serdang Heritage @Kolej 2 aimed to sharing alumni memories during their student days. The talk was presented by three panelists; Dato' Ahmad Shapawi Ismail; Mr. Abdul Razak Abdul Latiff and Miss Zetty Nurhidayah Mokhtar.



TAUTAN MAHABBAH

26 April 2019 - Masjid UPM

ACUPM in cooperation with Pusat Islam Universiti, WAZAN and PAUPM organised Tautan Mahabbah as one of the programmes to commemorate this annual celebration of UPM Alumni Day-21 May. A talk by Ustaz Mohd Hariri Mohamad Daud, Alumni Class of 2016, Member Board of Directors, Islamic Science University of Malaysia was given the highlight followed by *Doa Selamat* and *Tahlil*. During the event, donations were also handed to orphans from Pusat Jagaan Rumah Bakti Al-Kausar, Bangi, Pusat Jagaan Anak Yatim Al-Farid and Pusat Jagaan Kanak-kanak/Yatim/Miskin Rukaiyah.





CASU REUNION

27 April 2019 - Kota Bharu, Kelantan

Approximately 50 of Class 72 alumni attended the ceremony.



ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KTP

27 April 2019 - KTP

Alumni Serdang Heritage @ Kolej Tun Perak attracted 200 participants. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Ismail, Hj. Ady Ermanty Haniff and Mr. Shaick Saifullah were the three panelists during the forum reminiscing their students days in UPM.



Highlights

MEET & GREET CHAPTER ALUMNI UPMKB

28 April 2019 - Dewan Taklimat Serdang, UPM

Meet & Greet Chapter Alumni UPMKB aimed to strengthen bonding and friendship among members.



ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KTDI

27-28 April 2019 - KTDI

Alumni Serdang Heritage @KTDI aims of bringing back alumni to the campus for sharing their memories during their student days. The talk was presented by three panelists; Dr. Mohd Mokrish Md Ajat; Mrs. Salehatul Khuzaimah Mohamad Ali and Mr. Mohammad Adry Radzali.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE NEW PAUPM COMMITTEE MEMBERS SESSION 2019-2021 AND HANDOVER PORTFOLIO

29 April 2019 - UPM Alumni Association Office

It was chaired by former President, YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail. He congratulated and welcome PAUPM Committee Members session 2019-2021 under the new leadership led by Dato' Raihan Sharif. We hope that the Committee Members will be able to carry out our mandate and responsibility in an effort to uphold the name of UPM and strengthen the role of alumni in the University.



Highlights



ALUMNI SERDANG HERITAGE @KOSASS

2 May 2019 - KOSASS

Alumni Serdang Heritage @KOSASS participated by 250 students. Discourging on the journey of UPM alumni in receiving and generating knowledge at this university were Mrs. Nafishah Hassan; Dr. Norhisham Marmin and Mejar Nor Azman Shahimi.

COLUMNUM FARMING: MANAGING OIL PALM PLANTATION FOR HIGH YIELDS

2 - 3 May 2019 - Prima Saujana Kajang & Palm Oil Block A UPM

This title explores effective oil palm management techniques to improve yields. Seven participants joined this colloquium. The facilitator for this colloquium is Dato' Dr. Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajuddin.



MAWADDAH RAMADAN

15-17 May 2019 - Putra Food Court, UPM

The project organised by ACUPM provided breaking fast meals to 200 students (asnaf) daily. This noble tradition to inculcate the sense of helpfulness and cooperativeness.



BREAKING FAST PAUPM - FEP "SESUCI CINTA RAMADAN"

15 May 2019 - Faculty of Economics and Management, UPM

The theme of "Sesuci Cinta Ramadan" was chosen to instill a deeper sense of belonging among the next generation of UPM alumni. The ceremony began with a welcome speech from Prof. Dr. Azali Mohamed, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management, followed by Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution, Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.



APPRECIATION CEREMONY OF CHAPTER STUDENT AMBASSADOR (CSA) 2018/2019

16 May 2019 - Foyer Dewan Taklimat, Chancellery Building

ACUPM hosted a ceremony honouring Chapter Student Ambassadors (CSA) 2018/2019. A certificate of appreciation was given to each student for their service and contributions in assisting ACUPM's programmes.



Highlights

IFTAR UPMISA

31 May 2019 - UPM

Honorary guests present at the event included YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail, Chairman of UPM Board of Directors, Prof. Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris, UPM Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni UPM. The Iftar Council received an overwhelming response from international students who were present at UPM. Among them are students from Libya, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and others. In addition to establishing international students 'fellowship, the event also promotes students 'relationship with the university top management.



MEGA RAYA PUTRA

14 June 2019 - UPM

More than 2,000 UPM alumni, students and staff attended the event. The lively event was organised by the UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) in collaboration with the UPM Student Affairs Division (HEPA) and various HEPA entities. They consist of UPM Alumni Centre, UPM Counseling Division, Student Co-Curricular and Development Centre (PKPP), UPM Sports Centre, UPM Wakaf Management, Zakat and Endowment Centre (WAZAN), residential colleges, Jana Sdn Bhd Business Partners, Etiqa, TMJ Sdn Bhd, UPM International Association (UPMISA), Chief Minister of Incorporated (MBI) and UPM Holdings (UPMH).

During the event WAZAN handed over the modified van for disable student to be used to send students to college and classes. The van is a contribution from the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS).

In addition, appreciation was given to the 2018/2019 Student Supreme Council along with food bank donations to new Agricultural Science Foundation (ASPER) students 2019/2020. In addition, guests were also entertained with variety of songs by band performances.

This event also saw the launching of video of PAUPM Portal, paupmnetwork.my. This portal is one of the platforms for PAUPM to connect directly with alumni. Through this medium alumni can connect with each other and program information is more accessible.



TNCPi BUILDING RAYA CELEBRATION

18 June 2019 - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Building

It was a very lively celebration with the participation of all UPM entities. There were various events such as the prettiest booth competitions, the best performances and lucky draws. The Alumni Centre was first for the best booth and best show. This celebration aims to strengthen the relationship between staff of UPM entities located in this building such as the Alumni Association, Alumni Centre, Putra Business School, Research Management Centre, Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, UPM Press and UPM Quality Assurance Centre.



PLANTATION COLLOQUIUM: SOIL FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

20-21 June 2019 - Prima Saujana, Kajang

The 2-day programme was facilitated by Dato' Dr. Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajudin. This colloquium discussed soil fertility and how it was treated. Ten participants in this colloquium comprising entrepreneurs and plantation staff from all over Malaysia. The sharing of knowledge was expected to broaden the knowledge and understanding of participants to be more successful in farm management.

Highlights

TRACE ALUMNI DISTRICT @KUCHING

25-30 June 2019 - Kuching, Sarawak

The programme includes activities such as sharing of the past and upcoming alumni events and emphasises the importance of alumni to continue giving the support, whatever they can, to the *alma mater*.



CHAPTER 70' RAYA CELEBRATION

26 June 2019 - Astana Putra, UPM

The event was also attended by Prof. Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr Aini, UPM Vice Chancellor.





REUNION JUBLI EMAS RAYA PK INTAN '90

6 July 2019 - TNCPI Building

The event started off with a brief welcoming speech from the chairperson followed by alumni engagement session. There were performances, lucky draws with attractive prizes as well as donation for Tabung 1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit (1A1SR).



NEGERI SEMBILAN CHAPTER RAYA CELEBRATION

28 June 2019 - Negeri Sembilan

The Negeri Sembilan Chapter raya celebration.

THE TARIK & CHAT RAYA ALUMNI INDUSTRY SERIES 3

10 July 2019 - L'Apprenti UPM

Teh Tarik & Chat Raya Alumni Industry Series 3 was organised by the ACUPM as a platform to exchange ideas and further expand the networking and collaboration among alumni UPM.



Highlights

PAUPM VISITS CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRY

17 July 2019 - Putrajaya

PAUPM visited Dato' Mohd Sallehuddin Hassan, Chief Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry.



LIVE BROADCAST ON PUTRA FM

18 July 2019 - Putra FM

PAUPM live broadcast on Putra FM to promote Astana Putra. Astana Putra started operations on 22 July 2019 at the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. Astana Putra provides weddings, birthdays and other event packages. Operation from 10.00 am until 12 midnight. Menus available include Gravy Goat Rice, Abg Jamil Rice & Grilled Chicken Fried Chicken and more.



VISITING CEO UPM HOLDINGS

29 July 2019 - UPM

PAUPM visited CEO of UPM Holdings, Ir Khairul Faizi Khalid.



TRACE ALUMNI DISTRICT @ZON UTARA

28 July - 2 Aug 2019 - Kedah

The programme included sharing of the past and upcoming alumni events with emphasis on the importance of alumni to continue the tradition of giving to the *alma mater*.



RMK12 WORKSHOP

16 Aug 2019

Issues discussed include:

1. Food security
2. Reduce trade balance (BOT)
3. Increase target income
4. Use of IR 4.0 technology applications
5. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)
6. Investment and financing
7. Productivity and competitiveness
8. Delivery system
9. Agricultural Input Development



CONGRATULATIONS UPM ALUMNI

3 Sept 2019 - UPM

Congratulations to Mr Mohd Norashedy Ab Rashid, Deputy President PAUPM, for receiving the Appreciation Award from Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs in conjunction with *Minggu Perkasa Putra*.



Highlights

SIGNING CEREMONY OF PAUPM & UPM -ASTANA PUTRA AGREEMENT

13 Sept 2019 - Astana Putra

This MoA has been signed by Prof Datin Dato' Paduka Setia Dr. Aini Ideris, Vice-Chancellor of UPM and Dato' Raihan Sharif, President, UPM Alumni Association witnessed by Tan Sri Dr. Ghauth Jasmon, Chairman, UPM Board of Directors and PAUPM Committee Members.

The essence of the agreement touches on the purpose of establishing Astana Putra, the duration of the agreement between PAUPM and UPM and the Astana Putra rental rates.



TUN MAHATHIR HAVING BREAKFAST AT ASTANA PUTRA

15 September 2019 - Astana Putra

The Prime Minister Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had a morning riding session at the UPM Equine Centre in Serdang. Later, he had breakfast at the Astana Putra accompanied by UPM Vice-Chancellor, Prof Datin Paduka Setia Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris, Dato' Raihan Sharif, President of the UPM Alumni Association and PAUPM Exco members. Tun Mahathir spend at two hours before leaving for home.





APPOINTMENT CEREMONY OF CHAPTER STUDENT AMBASSADORS SESSION 2019/2020

10 Oct 2019 - Dewan Taklimat Serdang

ACUPM hosted Appointment Ceremony of Chapter Student Ambassadors Session 2019/2020.



ALUMNI & CSA FRATERNITY CAMP

25-27 Oct 2019 - PDS Training Camp

The objective of the camp is to create and instil leadership qualities among students, especially when organising activities. It also provided exposure on public speaking with prudent techniques. The efforts made were not only helping students take more competitive in their studies, but also enhanced their soft skill to cope with challenges in the outside world.



Highlights



SEJAM BERSAMA ALUMNI (SEBA)

SERIES 1 - 11

10 Oct - 19 Dec 2019

The sessions provided students with glimpses of what are required to succeed in a world full of challenges and competitions. This sharing sessions also provided platform for future networking and opportunity for alumni and students bonding and collaboration.





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Features



ALUMNI CLASS OF 2019 GIFT

9-23 Nov 2019 - UPM

ACUPM has launched a special project carried out during the gathering and return of the academic robe for the UPM Convocation Ceremony. It aims to strengthen and enhance alumni engagement and help contribute to student welfare. The number of collections collected during the event was announced by the graduate representative speech during each Convocation session.



DISTRIBUTION OF ALUMNI GRADUATION PACKAGES

16-24 Nov 2019 - UPM

As commonly practised, ACUPM opened an Alumni Counter for graduates in the UPM convocation ceremony 2019. Approximately 4500 graduates received their graduation packages. Congratulations to all graduates!



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RM1,500 (Non-Malaysian)
**Zero Monthly Fee*

3 Monthly Term Membership
RM300 (Malaysian only)

Highlights



TRACE @PULAU PINANG

9 Dec 2019 - Pulau Pinang Matriculation College

ACUPM delegates visited Pulau Pinang Matriculation College to meet and strengthen its linkages with UPM alumni and updated recent happenings in UPM.



REUNION UPM ALUMNI VETERINARY

14 Dec 2019 - MAEPS Serdang & Faculty of Veterinary Medicine UPM

This reunion was part of UPM Alumni Veterinary outreach activities aimed at strengthening bonding of veterinary fraternity, renew old friendship and forging new ones.



Sedap
hingga
menjilat jari



Hidangan tertera untuk tujuan penggambaran sahaja.

MAJLIS APRESIASI GEMILANG ALUMNI PUTRA (MEGA 2019)

16 Dec 2019 - Palm Garden Hotel

Majlis Apresiasi Gemilang Alumni Putra was organised by ACUPM for the recipients of University Award and athlete UPM during 43rd UPM Convocation Ceremony.



HI-TEA ALUMNI TEACHING MALAY AS THE FIRST LANGUAGE (PBMP) CHAPTER CLASS OF 1998

21 Dec 2019 - Golf Club UPM

Hi-tea Alumni PBMP Class of 1998 aimed to create close relationships between members and provide a platform to exchange ideas, views and information.





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& PRIVATE BALLROOM
WITH PACKAGE

PUTRA BALLROOM

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RENT WITHOUT FOOD PACKAGE - RM 120 (1 HOUR)

DINNER / LUNCH / HIGH TEA : RM 35 - 55 (PER PAX)

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DINNER - DOME (SEATED)

RM 60 - RM 85 (MINIMUM 300 PAX)

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Features

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 channeled to the *Tabung Sumbangan Alumni*. Listed below are our ad rates.

No.	Category - Ad Size	Price
1.	Page (Full)	RM10,000.00
2.	Page (Half)	RM5,000.00
3.	Page (Quarter)	RM3,000.00



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.



01

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

UPM Alumni Scholarship has developed to give an opportunity for alumni to join forces with their alma mater in providing creative and innovative educational experiences that will further strengthen the university success. The donation will be channelled to the UPM Alumni Contribution Fund for the purpose of student's scholarship and financial assistance.



LAISR CAMPAIGN

UPM Alumni Centre has developed 1 Alumni 1 Sumbangan Ringgit Campaign through Tabung Sumbangan Alumni UPM. The donation will be channelled to the UPM Endowment Fund for the purpose of university development, increase the soft skills of students and help students financially.

03

ALUMNI PASSION & COMPASSION INITIATIVES



02

ALUMNI SPONSORSHIP

To give an opportunity for alumni to join forces with their alma mater in giving back to strengthen the collaboration and engagements among alumni and the university.

"a tradition of giving, a culture of bonding"



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*When the sun is up
When the light is on
The day has begun
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When the job is done
When the curtain is down
It is time to go home*

by J Sham



📍 **Alumni Centre**
Aras Bawah Bangunan TNC (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi)
Off Lebuh Silikon
43400 Universiti Putra Malaysia
Selangor Darul Ehsan

☎ Tel : 03-9769 1017
✉ Email : alumni@upm.edu.my
🌐 Website : <http://www.alumni.upm.edu.my>

📍 **UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM)**
Aras Bawah Bangunan TNC (Penyelidikan Dan Inovasi)
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