



# Nobel Laureate to give public lecture in July

■ By Michael Sun

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) has organised a high-profile public lecture by 1991 Nobel Laureate professor in Chemistry, Richard Ernst, on Science and Our Future, at UPM, Serdang on July 20.

He will also conduct a motivational session the next day at Universiti Tenaga Nasional in Kajang, Selangor.

An international conference on Bridge Engineering & Hydraulic Structures will run from July 26 to 28 at the Palace of The Golden Horses, Kuala Lumpur.

This event is co-organised with the Public Works Department, the Department of Irrigation & Drainage from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries and the Institute of Engineers

Malaysia.

Also, in conjunction with the Malaysian Agricultural Horticultural & Agrotourism (Maha) Exhibition, an agricultural congress on Innovation Towards Modernised Agriculture will be held from Oct 4 to 7 at the Mines Resort City, Kuala Lumpur.

Collaborators with UPM for the event include the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries, the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama), the Malaysian International Exhibition & Convention Centre (MIECC), the International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural

Sciences (ISSAAS) and International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

Dr Sidek Abdul Aziz, deputy director at the Research Management Centre of UPM, said: "UPM aims to be the premier research university in Malaysia and in the region. We also seek to be on par internationally with agro-bio research as our niche."

He is also an associate professor at the Department of Physics at the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies.

Advances in internationally-competitive infrastructure, research funding, major research collaborations and

quality research training have enhanced our research profile tremendously, he added.

Comprehensiveness is important as more universities focus on interdisciplinary work, he said.

The increase in IRPA approved grants for UPM from RM136.3 million in July 2002 to RM163.9 million in April 2004 had boosted research and contributed to more publications, he added.

There have been 2,976 assorted research publications from faculties in 2003.

Out of this, 1,574 or 53 per cent were related to conference proceedings and 863



**COMPREHENSIVE:** UPM focuses on interdisciplinary work.

or 29 per cent were works printed in journals. Of the latter, 535 publications were in foreign journals while 328 publications were local.

The rest of the publications included 160 books or five per cent of total publications and 379 other publications or 13 per cent.

"We try to make UPM a world-class university by publishing the research conducted by our lecturers. Agricultural science is the research trust. We enhance that with developments in IT and technology," he added.

Each quarter, UPM pu-

blishes *Synthesis, R&D Digest of Universiti Putra Malaysia* and about 5,000 copies are circulated in Malaysia and overseas.

Another UPM quarterly paper, *Tribunputra, Wadah gagasan keprihatinan*, publicises UPM's activities and research in Serdang communities.

Lecturers provide community service such as advice to farmers and rubber tappers and give motivational lectures to secondary school children, he said.

For details, log on to: [www.upm.edu.my](http://www.upm.edu.my)