

SerdangSUN

A Tradition of Giving, a Culture of Bonding

UPM Alumni Magazine

Creativity, Innovation & Global Business Opportunity

- RADIN UMAR'S VISION



Grew from
Agriculture ... page 7

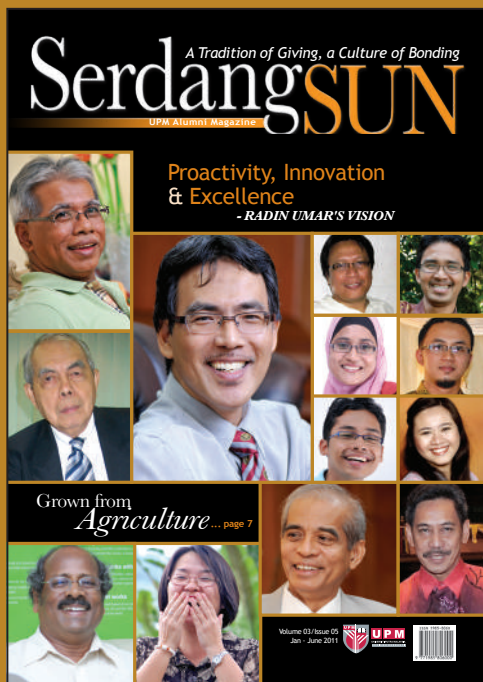


Volume 03/Issue 05
Jan - June 2011



Winning

Thank you for the great years with Serdang Sun since its first issue in 2009. Looking back they were the precursors of many firsts in this year; the faculties began to take off with their Distinguished UPM Alumni Lecture Series (DALs) and Outreach Alumni to UPM Bintulu Campus (UPMKB). This year holds a meaningful 21 May, the auspicious day when UPM celebrates its 80 years existence, signifying a truly matured status of the university. As UPM celebrates the 80th anniversary with much humility, it produced many great alumni and leaders. They too are inspired to see the achievement of their *Alma mater*, as they unfold some of the secrets of their own successes.



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MATURITY

In this issue, let us again touch the heart of everyone with Serdang Sun, brought back to life through the efforts of many, alumni of the past and current institutions. Interestingly enough, like most magazine its production awaits contributions from people who volunteered to spend a bit of their precious time to pen down and put

together interesting stories that they want to share and let known to others, their untold saga. In this issue, Serdang Sun features three unique individuals who have brought a wealth of transformation and innovations to forge the university forward towards excellence. These individuals serve UPM in different capacities. They did with such a great impact that UPM remains reputable locally and internationally. We give special thanks to them for the interviews and we are happy to acknowledge the achievements. There are numerous events held this year, too many to mention. However it was worth noting very pleasing result of alumni outreach program to UPMKB by the joint efforts of the centre, associations and chapters to bring alumni consciousness to this campus.

For those individual responsible to devotedly move the alumni magazine, the team served ably and working tirelessly to make this edition a reality. We were reinvigorated by the constant enquiries and request from many organizations and alumni throughout the states. We definitely feel that Serdang Sun will bring energy and binds alumni to this great *Alma mater*.

— Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)



“We have a hunger of the mind which asks for knowledge of all around us, and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing...”

—Maria Mitchell

Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)

RADIN UMAR'S VISION

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION & GLOBAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi was the Director General of the Higher Education Department and the Chief Registrar of Private Higher Education Institutions, Ministry of Higher Education, when he was appointed the 6th Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Taking over from Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah, whose appointment as Vice-Chancellor of UPM ended on 31 December 2010, Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin whose three-year tenure began on 1st January 2011, is said to have set his sights on transforming UPM into a globally responsive educational entity.

Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin came to prominence for his exemplary work in the Malaysian higher education circle and road safety engineering, and is strongly believed to be the right man to propel UPM to the next level of excellence. This sentiment is shared by the UPM management. Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi has the capacity to empower the vision and mission of UPM in line with the Ministry of Higher Education's Transformation Program and the New Economic Model (DEB), and to lead UPM into successfully realising the objectives of the National Higher Education Strategic Plan as well as UPM's Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

To transform itself into a globally reputable research university, UPM has to first steer its campus community into taking its academic, research and student development activities to a higher level, and under Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin's high-impact leadership, such a transformation is anticipated to be not too far-off.

Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin's entry into UPM was an exhilarating experience in itself, especially for those who were not familiar with his high-powered personality. On the first day he took

office, he set right to work by meeting with UPM senior academicians and officers. He stressed the importance of good work ethics for both academic and non-academic staff. Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin also reminded that for a Research University (RU) like UPM to sustain itself, employee commitment level must at all times be high. He was quoted as saying, "The academic staff must lead by being role models to other staff as well as students. Only then can the university expect discipline and a sense of responsibility among support staff and students. This sense of duty, responsibility and commitment must also be filtered down into the administration of the university to ensure that a high level of transparency and accountability in all aspects is maintained at all times."

Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin also spoke about creating a university environment that is driven by creativity, a sense of independence and an ethical culture of tolerance among staff and students. During his meeting with the team from Students Affairs Department in February, he spoke about the need to strengthen not only the aesthetic skills of the students, but also their creative abilities; and this he said can be achieved if the students are made to actively participate in the activities organised at UPM's residential colleges. He also said that students should be offered high impact activities that can help enhance their soft skills and Generic Students Attributes (GSAs).

Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin hopes that in upholding its status as a research university, UPM's research commercialisation efforts and expertise will make a significant impact on the nation's economic growth and create more business opportunities on the local and international fronts. He also believes that UPM has the capacity to become the country's largest provider of professional graduates; the same way it is contributing to skilled manpower in agricultural disciplines, and that such a potential can help make significant contributions to the nation and its economy. Dato' Ir. Dr. Radin's highest aspiration is to position UPM graduates and research innovations under the '*Made in UPM*' banner, and it is believed that such an insightful move will help project UPM as a globally competitive higher educational entity in the near future.

YPR

LECTURE SERIES



Mohd Naim Hj. Mohd Ishak (BSc Human Development, 2001; MSc IT, 2005)
Dr Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)

‘Leading Corporate Malaysia’



Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) Lecture Series 7, was held on the 14 January 2011 at Auditorium Jurutera, Faculty of Engineering, UPM. UPM alumnus Dato' Tajuddin Atan, Group Managing Director of RHB Banking Group was given the honour to address and shared his perspective on what it takes to lead a business organization in Malaysia through his lecture 'Leading Corporate Malaysia'. Indeed very timely as it was a maiden function for the sixth Vice Chancellor Dato' Ir, Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi, who automatically assume the chairmanship of YPR Board of Trustees. Intended to involve all graduate students of top business management, the event was held in collaboration with the Graduates School of Management (GSM), UPM. The event was attended by 425 participants; member of YPR Board of Trustees, UPM staff, Alumni from various industries and eager GSM Graduate students.

Tajuddin Atan has 24 years experience in finance and banking industry and familiar with the Malaysian capital market and the exchange business. He reminded himself and the audience that the constantly evolving environment as well as the increase in the levels of competition in the industries increasingly requires leaders of an organization or a corporation to be equipped with multifaceted skills. An aptitudes and attitude that is attuned to change and innovation, and all the while attracting and retaining talents and motivating the workforce in a performance-driven work culture is vital to the organization. Currently Dato' Tajuddin is the CEO of Bursa Malaysia Berhad.

Grew from Agriculture

The establishment of this university (then Universiti Pertanian Malaysia) was the result of the merger between the College of Agriculture Malaya with the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Malaya in 1971. Its first academic session was in July 1973 with three central faculties: the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Forestry, and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and Division of Basic Sciences.

The Faculty of Agriculture, the founding faculty has given births to many faculties in the expansion strategy of UPM such as the Faculty of Human Ecology and Faculty of Educational

Studies, then later has transformed into Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication. This article discusses the history, growth and expansion of the National Language, Bahasa Melayu being the main medium used in lectures then. It offers degree program in foreign language such as Mandarin, Japanese, German and Arabic.

The Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication (FMLC), was established with the philosophy that man, as a creation of God and plays the role of His trustee, is capable of manipulating intellectual and literary resources towards the creation for the wellbeing of an individual, family and the community. Hence, FMLC shoulders the responsibility of educating those who protect and uphold the supremacy of knowledge, particularly in language and communication, to support the modernization of tropical agriculture and bioresources for universal peace and happiness.

Malay Language: beyond Infinity

Assoc. Prof Dr. Che Ibrahim Salleh
(MSc, 1985)

The tradition of this Faculty can be traced back to its history from the days when the Division of the National Language and the English Language at the College of Agriculture Malaya were established following the enforcement of Language Act 1967. The Act mandated the college to use Malay as well as English in education to produce competent agriculture officers.

When the Agriculture University of Malaysia (Universiti Pertanian Malaysia - UPM) was formed through the merger between the College of Agriculture Malaya and the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti of Malaya in 1971, the structure

of its programmes were revised. Both language divisions were merged and was responsible for conducting courses in the Malay and English.

As preparation for UPM to offer undergraduate degree programmes, the language division was upgraded to the language department in 1972 under the Faculty of Agriculture. At that time, Malay was the main language of instruction at UPM. However, the development of proficiency in both Malay and English were given equal emphasis to all UPM students.



When the Faculty of Education Services was established on 15 January 1975, the language department was transferred to this Faculty which was subsequently renamed the Faculty of Educational Studies or FPP - *Fakulti Pengajian Pendidikan*. This faculty was given the responsibility to conduct social sciences and language proficiency courses to all students enrolled in this university. A few years later, the department introduced a number of proficiency courses in other modern languages including Arabic, Japanese, French and Korean. Each proficiency course offered has two levels, a beginner and an intermediate level. The increase in the scope of language proficiency courses offered was considered an appropriate step towards

fulfilling the university's aspiration to equip students with tenability to engage in a wider field of knowledge and not be limited only to the Malay and English language. During the initial stages, all teaching staff was native speakers of the respective languages.

As an institution established under the Faculty of Education, the language department was also engaged in language related issues at the national level. With the development of higher education in the country at that time and concerns about the deterioration of the Malay language in the future, the language department worked towards making FPP the champion of placing the Malay language as a language of knowledge at

the highest level by instilling a sense of pride in using Malay language in the quest of knowledge, not only at the national level but also at international levels. As a result, the Department developed the Bachelor programme in Education (Teaching Malay as the First Language). This programme sought to establish the Malay language as a language for knowledge, unity, administration, communication, education, law, philosophy, trade and commerce, high literacy, and for nationalism.

Nonetheless, the Department acknowledges the importance of the English in developing graduates with a competitive edge. Therefore, the Department also developed the Bachelor degree programme in Education (Teaching of English as a Second Language). Both programmes became a reality and was offered for the first time in the 1982/83 academic session.

Time has passed and challenges of higher education have become increasingly demanding. Among the demands that need to be met is the production of world-class graduates with a first-class mindset. In order to fulfill this aspiration, and to create a greater impact, the Language Department needs to offer language programmes that are more specifically designed and have some autonomy in performing specific functions in the university.

“ A few years later, the department introduced a number of proficiency courses in other modern languages other than English including Arabic, Japanese, French and subsequently Korean...”

Hence, on 4 January 1995, UPM upgraded the Language Department to Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication. As a new entity, the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication set out to become the centre of excellence in language education and research aimed at contributing towards not only the development of humankind and the quest of knowledge but also in the creation of wealth and development of the nation.

The faculty has three major departments; The Malay Department which focuses on writing, performance and Malay Language proficiency; The English Language Department which conducts courses in English language proficiency and English literature; and the Foreign Language Department which offers 14 foreign language courses which include Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Thai, French, Spanish, German, Tamil, Myanmar, Persian and Russian.

To consolidate the efforts that uphold the aspiration of UPM to become a university of international repute, modern language programmes with specific majors were offered. In the year 1998, Bachelor of Art degree (Foreign Language) with specializations in Mandarin and Arabic were offered by the Foreign Language Department.

On 1 January 1999, the Department of Communication, which was formerly the Department of Development Communication at the Faculty of Human Ecology, was renamed and merged with the Faculty of Modern Languages to form the Faculty of Modern



“ In the year 2001, FMLC added French and German as two new specializations in the Bachelor of Art (Foreign Language) degree programme...

Languages and Communication. Having consolidated its status in the university, FMLC continued to expand its programme. In the year 2001, FMLC added French and German as two new specializations in the Bachelor of Art (Foreign Language) degree.

With these new offerings, the faculty aims to become the centre of excellence in the field of language and communication that is capable of disseminating knowledge for the growth of the nation and the prosperity of humanity. To achieve this objective, the Faculty will work towards increasing involvement in teaching activities up to the postgraduate level, and developing the communication skills of the graduates and their command of various languages; organizing and improving activities in terminology development and translation to keep up with developments in new knowledge; planning the functions of Malay, English, communication and other modern languages and perfecting the implementations of these functions, establishing the centre of excellence that

contributes significantly towards learning activities and research on language and communication and is proactively providing consultation and extension services.

To date, FMLC has produced 9,948 graduates; of which 7,363 graduates hold a Bachelor of Art degree while 2,585 graduates hold a Bachelor in Communication. Apart from this, FMLC has also succeeded in producing 260 graduates at the postgraduate level, 16 doctoral, and 244 Master. Many of the academicians of this Faculty have received national and international recognition for their outstanding researches.

The faculty will continue to boldly forge ahead with breakthroughs in language related issues and continue with the quest for knowledge development that surpasses ethnic and geographical barriers to produce graduates of high academic standing.





Assoc. Prof Datin Dr. Kalthum Hashim (MSc Pharm., 1984) • Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)

Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim

ACADEMIC & ENTREPRENEUR COMBINATION

Biography

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim, presently the Chairman of UPM Board of Directors and Chairman of Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad, is indeed a man with charisma. His career in UPM actually started as a lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture Universiti Malaya in 1975. He then moved to Universiti Putra Malaysia (then Universiti Pertanian Malaysia). He attained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the University of London in 1977. He was the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences (1978-1983). He was appointed a professor in Animal Nutrition in 1981 at the age of 36 and has provided effective leadership in research, graduated many post-graduate students and published numerous scientific papers. For these, he received many awards, among them the National Science Laureate, the Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies (AAAP), Fellowship

Academy of Sciences, and Emeritus Professor KUSTEM and UPM. Internationally, he was awarded the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) University of Hull, United Kingdom, Soka University, Japan and the Doctor of Agricultural Technology, Thaksin University, Thailand.

Tan Sri Syed continued to climb the administrative ladder to the chairs of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and then the Vice-Chancellor, the position he held until his retirement in 2001. He spent 26 years in the academic world and under his leadership, the university underwent rapid development and thrust into prominence in research and academia. UPM ventured into corporate world competing with giants of industries to market its research products. To date UPM can be proud of its achievement in this sector.

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim exemplary demeanor reflects his personality, a man of integrity and honesty, two core values he holds dear. His contribution to this country directly or indirectly is reflected by the excellence performance of UPM. Tan Sri's contribution to this country does not escape the keeper of the Federal Government of Malaysia. He was decorated with the higher honorary award of the country that is, the Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) which carries the title 'Tan Sri'. He also received many from other states in Malaysia.

Retirement is never on his mind, upon completion of service with UPM, he ventured into corporate sector, presently the Chairman of Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad, and members of board of directors of a number of private institutions of higher learning.

Privately and personally, Tan Sri is one happy man with a happy and close knit family. His wife Puan Sri Dr Nik Nafeesah Nik Adeep, is a Professor in Gynaecology and Obstetrics presently serving at UKM. Their union started when both were still students, and after 46 years, their love and bonding are a delight to observe. Blessed with two children and five grandchildren, Tan Sri could not ask for more !!!.....



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SERDANG SUN

Serdang Sun is honoured that Tan Sri consented to be interviewed at his office in Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad.

SERDANG SUN: Please share with us your basic philosophy of managing Bank Rakyat.

I was an academician and have entered the banking world upon the trust and confidence of the government especially the former Prime Minister, YBhg Tun Mahathir. I was never a financier nor a banker, but it could be the leadership quality that could have brought me here. When I joined the bank, the asset of the Bank was MYR 11 Billion and today, having turned around the performance of Bank Rakyat, the asset has grown more than 5 times. One must always address the strategic issues, I felt humble as I have so little ability, but I am indeed pleased that I have attained what I have now and I hope to aspire many people around me so that they can attain beyond me. We need to transform, the Banks have to change, evolve and renew themselves so that they can continue to thrive and be great. In Bank Rakyat we have reinvented the business model and the strategies to brand the Bank. Bank Rakyat must aim to be the best and be among the best. To do that one has to work harder and look for the power within you, the God given power. Leadership is the inherent quality in individual and it is up to the individual whether he wants to exploit it to make a difference.

SERDANG SUN: Can you tell us about the corporate culture that you have created in Bank Rakyat with your leadership?

The great thing is, Bank Rakyat already have fantastic people. So it is important for leadership to come up with the strategy and start communicating the plan consistently and on a



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Features

repeated basis to reinforce the strategy to brand Bank Rakyat throughout the country. And what happened over a period of time - in our bank, in a relatively short period of time - was people started to believe that this change was real and they saw it happened because they were part of it and they were living the changes. And that is where it gets really exciting to be with them.

I recalled the good ole university days that “the culture of working in a team was something I did during the days of Universiti Malaya and continued to apply it in Universiti

“ People are not interested in what you promised or what you said or talked as at the end of the day, people want to see your efforts and the outcomes of what you put in! How people judge us is by looking at the responsibility we exhibited...



Live our Life. Be genuine, honest and

Putra Malaysia. You must be facilitating the work so that the organization can achieve better results. We must never take away the shine of people who work with you and never short changed and take from the team. When one does the right things, people around you will reciprocate. Leadership is what we do as a daily habit, be it at home and outside. You have to learn to bring this culture to be in your daily routine. I also felt that one has to create value in oneself. We are judged by people, friends and society. People are not interested in what you promised or what you said or talk as at the end of the day, people want to see your efforts and the outcomes of what you put in! How people judge us is by looking at the responsibility we exhibited. When you get the first task, we have to do the best and expect big outcome.

SERDANG SUN: What is the most important lesson you hope to instill in staff or students?

I am an ordinary person with a strong determination and desire to do something great and ready to chase the dreams. A good leader should not be unduly worried about people hating you. How much do you care for the people as compared to how much

you care for yourself. Tan Sri Nayan saw the value in me as an individual and I believed that one must earn the confidence and no favouritism. Everyone is entitled to become what you want to become and you must earn it. Cherish friendship and value your friends. One must learn to engage with people, even someone you just met.

SERDANG SUN: What advice would you give to graduates and staff at UPM?

I considered University is an exclusive exemplary community. One must move on with a new paradigm and must also have the power to imagine, to dream bigger. We have to recall the sacrifice of UPM where our Fishery Division in Terengganu broke off from UPM, then upgraded to Kolej Universiti Sains Terengganu Malaysia (KUSTEM) and later to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). In the early and initial running of the KUSTEM and UMT, many of those involved were UPM staff. All were done in the interest of Terengganu and country for national development and nation building. This is not a loss to UPM, in fact we should be proud to have given birth to such an institution. The leaders of a university must be thinking for

national interest for I have always believe that UPM can do with complete genuineness, our action and decision must be reliable.

SERDANG SUN: Do you have a favourite quote or word of wisdom for work culture?

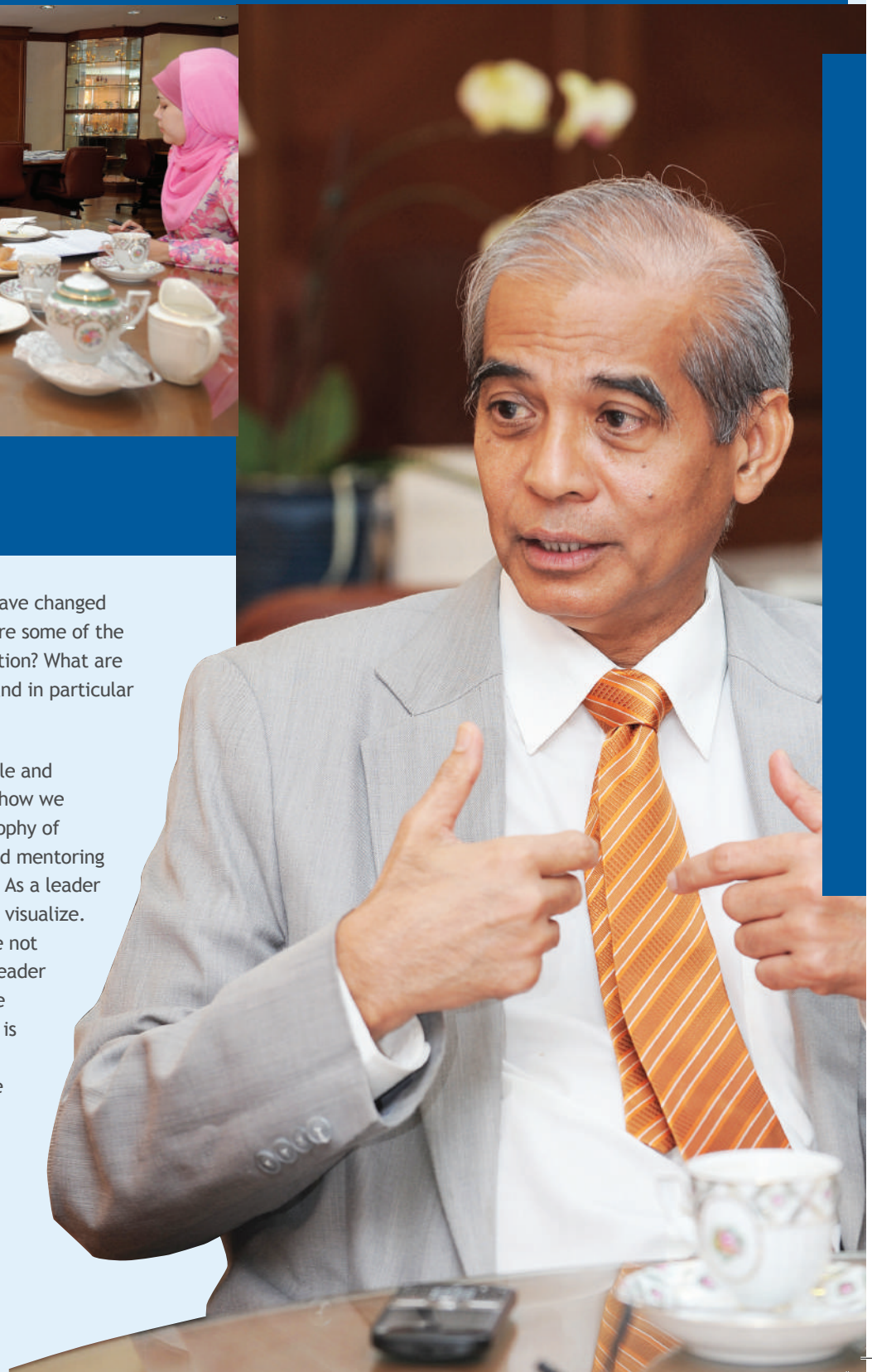
Live our Life. Be genuine, honest and true to self.



true to self...

SERDANG SUN: Managing the Bank may have changed radically now due to global economy, what are some of the development you see ahead in your organization? What are your long term goals for the banking sector and in particular Bank Rakyat?

Managing a bank is about managing the people and leadership; the quality of the individual and how we manage people around you. The basic philosophy of inspiring and nurturing people around you and mentoring them to do well bring them to better height. As a leader one has to have the power to imagine and to visualize. Ordinary leader see only the grass, sometime not even the fruits up on the trees, but a great leader see the whole forest. Make people dream the undreamable, do the impossible. Bank Rakyat is now ranked as AA2 bank (long term financial institution rating), the same level as RHB. He hopes that BR will eventually carry a brand just like any other Malaysian banks such as CIMB, Maybank, Public Bank and Hong Leong Bank.



We met in Serdang

Here's a great "how we met" notes from our alumni, Tan Sri Dr Ani Arope, Seow Hong, Teza Alfindo Rosyid, Sukanya Siva and Lau Wei Hong to the editor. Their sweeter and strong half, reminisced their first glance, the first time they met, and how it eventually ended up with that sweet feeling in the heart, and a really heartwarming good love story presented in fascinating ways. We uncovered what seems to be cherished by them whether it was College of Agriculture Malaya, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia or Universiti Putra Malaysia, their common ground was the lush green campus of Serdang had brought them together.

Tan Sri Dr. Ani Arope (Dip Agri, 1955)

My Meeting with Sainah

When I was just about to graduate from Serdang way back in 1955, I contributed an article in the magazine Serdang Sun advocating the admission of lady students into the hitherto all male enclave. Among the reasons given if I can remember correctly is to free the male graduates to the more strenuous tasks of field work leaving the less strenuous tasks to the women graduates. I also pointed out that in agricultural extension work to change the social attitude of a community was to work through the women-folk. We needed trained agricultural women graduates to work on the minds of the rural women folks.

After a short stint in Kelantan, I was selected to do my Agricultural degree in New Zealand under the Colombo Plan. I returned in 1960 and was posted to the Federal Experiment Station, Serdang as an Agronomist. As there were no quarters available for me, the Principal of the College of Agriculture, Serdang, Mr. Chew Hong Jung who once worked with my father in his younger days in Bukit Merah, Province Wellesley, Penang, offered the guest room of his quarters for me to stay until such time quarters were found for me. In exchange for this, he invited me to deliver a few lectures in agronomy.



In a conversation after dinner he made a passing remark that Serdang had then opened its doors to women and he had the first three pioneering lady students on campus. They were Sainah Ahmad, Sarajoni and Anna Wong all were then in their second year. They were all well groomed. One of them attracted my attention—tall, slim and vivacious. She had her hair done up so, that it exposed the nape of her slim neck. She looked definitely Chinese but had a Malay name and dressed in *sarong* and *kebaya*. I assumed she was Malay and gave no further thought of her except that the awareness of her existence was there. Being the only 'Malay' girl, I was sure she had many admirers and suitors from among her peers and seniors. I made sure I kept my distance as it would not be proper to fraternize with my students.



The first three girl students of College of Agriculture Malaya (1958/1961): Sainah, Sarojini & Anna Wong

My other duties as an agronomist, at the FES Serdang, was to finish a project to demonstrate that the growing of Durians cannot be done by planting one clonal type only. Durians were suspected to be self-incompatible in pollination. One had to bring pollen from another variety or clone to cross pollinate for successful fruiting of the Durians. To carry out this work I had to utilize the services of pollinators with a more than a nodding acquaintance of Botany. As the FES Serdang had field workers who were good at other things except the skills and knowledge that I wanted, I was given a small budget to engage the College students to help me out. I asked for help from the final year students and all the 3 lady students and 3 guys responded. They were to report to me at six in the evenings as Durian flowers only opened up at dusk when the temperature and humidity are optimal. After the pollination exercise, we tagged the controls and treated flowers with coloured wools. There was only a small window to work on and by 7.30 pm everything had to be finished.

didn't even wash the lamb chops! They must have enjoyed and survived the dinner as they all turned up for class the next day. Every alternate evening they had to come and check which pollination was successful and which were aborted. Dinner was of course expected and the ladies volunteered to prepare dinner. This 'Malay' girl, I noticed took charge of the kitchen and organized the cooking. I insisted that we guys would do the dishes and cleaning up of the kitchen. This came as a cultural shock to the guys but they did it cheerfully anyway.

Now, surely but truly, this awareness of this 'Malay' lass was fast developing into a keen interest of her. She had looks, poise and personality. Her culinary skills were way above average. All what an Asian man would expect from a life partner. So I broke all rules and showed some interest in her. She played her role well—became stand-offish and hard to get. Now my dog Assan must have sensed this. Every time I went to Kuala Lumpur in the evenings, he would come down the hill and sort her out and spent the whole evening with her until I returned. He would hear the engine sound of my VW and would run behind the car. Sometimes I would stop to give him a lift. This dog was uncanny. He even knew where her work table was and would wait for her to return from dinner. Every time I left the bungalow in the evenings, he deserted his guard duties and would seek out this

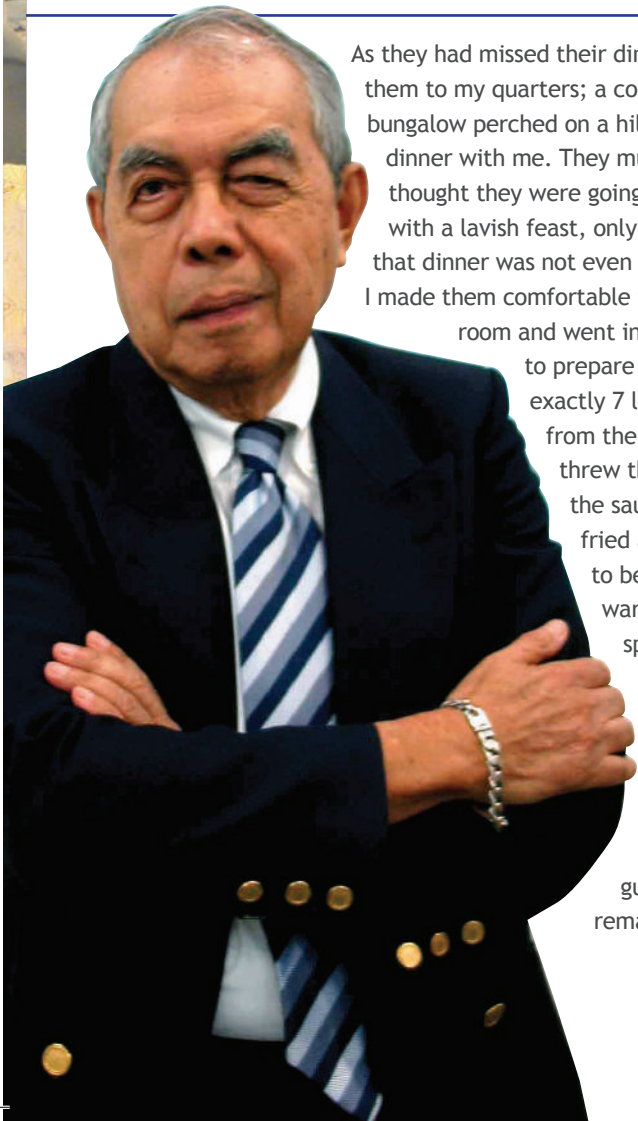
All what an Asian man would expect from a life partner...

As they had missed their dinner, I invited them to my quarters; a colonial style bungalow perched on a hill to have dinner with me. They must have thought they were going to be feted with a lavish feast, only to find out that dinner was not even been prepared. I made them comfortable in the living room and went into the kitchen to prepare dinner. I took exactly 7 lamb chops from the freezer, and threw them onto the saucepan. Then fried a dozen eggs to be served with warmed up canned spaghetti. So their first dinner was lamb chops, eggs and spaghetti. One of the guys later remarked that I

'Malay' lass and would accompany her in her walks and even be at her side watching rugby or soccer at the 'Padang'. Whenever we met, Assan became the conversational topic and I was teased for negligence of the dog.

So there was a stale mate. I showed interest and she returned none. Then on the eve of 1961 Eid, things took an exciting turn. Being a junior agronomist, my leave was curtailed as the Agronomist-in-Charge took leave and someone had to remain behind in the event something untoward happened on the Station. The College campus was virtually empty. In my evening walks with Assan, he slowly but surely led the way towards the lady student's quarters. To my pleasant surprise I saw her sitting near the gate entrance and Assan excitedly got to her first and greeted her like old friends who hadn't seen each for a long time. After a few pleasantries, I enquired why she had not returned to her kampong. Then I plucked up enough courage to ask her out to beak fast with me at the Federal Hotel.

I was pleasantly surprised that despite the standoffishness that was displaced and in spite of long cooling period she accepted my date. From then on our relationship developed fast. She invited me to be her beau at her graduation dinner. After dinner on the drive home, I proposed to her to which she accepted and before long we then decided to go into the pollination business ourselves.





FOUND OUR BETTER
HALF in
 SERDANG

Hooi Yin Loon (Dip Agri, 1967)

SERDANG College is a very memorable place during our young adult years, synonymous to a home away from home. Seow Hong (SH) joined the then Kolej Pertanian Malaya in 1963 and Yin Loon (YL) in 1964 and both graduated in 1965 and 1967 respectively. We were married in 1971.

We both had varied careers. SH's first posting was as an Agricultural Assistant working mainly on padi, and oil palm research. The work was mainly on progeny testing of hybrid materials. The padi research was in conjunction with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and local padi test stations and oil palm was with the oil palm research centres and Federal Experimental Stations (FES) in Jerangau and Serdang.

After graduating from Serdang, I proceeded for Bachelor in Agricultural Science at Universiti of Malaya while SH continued his studies in pharmacy at the University of Singapore. SH was then attached to the Ministry of Health and later the University Hospital in Petaling Jaya. After a couple of years, SH joined Shell Malaysia in its Agrochemicals Department involved in developing and marketing pesticides. He found it more interesting to work with market gardeners promoting pyrethroids insecticides and with small holders and planters promoting herbicides especially 'Roundup' for oil palm and rubber plantations and developing new product formulations and liaising with the Pesticide Board for product registration. Seow Hong later took up the challenging role of a Business and

Projects Analyst in Shell. We moved to Sydney in 1990 and SH reverted to the practice of pharmacy.

I on the other hand, joined the Standards Institution of Malaysia (SIM), later known as SIRIM, working on standards development in the field of agriculture where I gained extensive experience in standards and quality assurance both locally and overseas. I was also involved in regional and international standardisation work e.g. PASC, ISO/TC and FAO Codex Alimentarius. In Sydney, I continued with standardisation/legal metrology work with the National Standards Commission where I was the organising secretary of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), formed under the APEC umbrella. In the course of work, I travelled extensively throughout the Asia Pacific region for the annual conferences and seminars. I also graduated with a MSc (Biotechnology) from the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

We have a daughter, a son and a grand daughter. We have fond memories of Serdang which are still fresh in our minds and we always try to meet up with old friends from the College whenever we are back in KL. The sense of comradeship and connection remains strong as we still keep abreast of our classmates mainly though occasionally followed up on the development of our *Alma mater* (now grown to be a reputed university) then fondly known to us as the Serdang College.

We have a daughter, a son and a grand daughter. We have fond memories of Serdang which are still fresh in our minds and we always try to meet up with old friends from the College whenever we are back in KL.

CUPID STRIKES

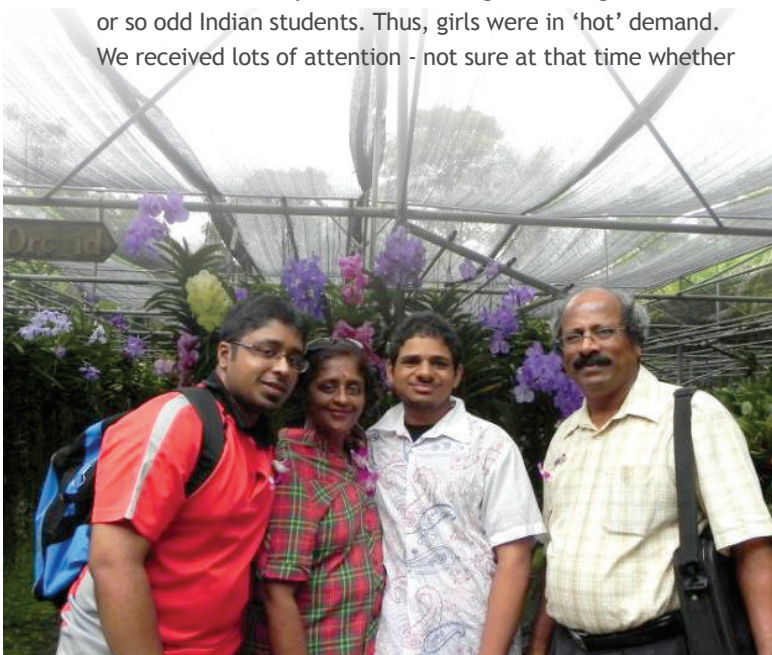
THE GREEN CAMPUS

Sukanya Siva (BSc Biochemistry, 1981)
Dr. Sivapragasam Annamalai (B. Agri. Sc (1978))

I never in my life thought that I would meet the man of my life at UPM, Serdang. I was never meant to go to UPM. I wanted to pursue a degree in Biochemistry and as my family members were “anglophiles”, at least where education was concerned, I was set to go to the UK. I had received an offer to do a degree in Biochemistry at Sheffield University and was supposed to go in September 1977.

However fate took a turn, when the UK currency value rose. Not to burden the family, I decided to apply locally and got a place in UPM to do biochemistry at the Faculty of Science. As they say, man plans but god decides. Things were destined to happen - and the UPM green campus and the Serdang Sun provided us the venue for my own ‘Bollywood’ moments. The many rendezvous and frills in the ‘benteng’ and the little pranks.

UPM then was beautiful, with lots of trees and not so many buildings, a bit isolated though. In the year 1977, the year I enrolled, UPM only took in 3 Indian girls, amongst the 30 or so odd Indian students. Thus, girls were in ‘hot’ demand. We received lots of attention - not sure at that time whether



they were for the right reasons. The spot where the cupid arrowstruck me was the hillock behind the 1st college clinic. Not sure if the clinic is still there. There stood prince charming with his three comrades wanting to orientate me, a passing freshie. It led to a relationship which is now into its 34th year and a marriage of 29 years. It must have been some interesting chemistry! - The interest in biochemistry helped in understanding the right vibes and hormones. Not to forget the afro hairstyle or the very inquisitive, penetrating eyes. Whatever it was, Cupid did strike an arrow!

To this day, my husband (Dr. Siva now with CABI, ex MARDI) remembers two significant statements that I made in the course of the four years in campus. Statements that must have had an immense effect. I didn't realize that after 30 something years he would remember word for word. One being: “Marriage is a compatibility of mind, body and soul” and the other was a poster I gave to him that said: “You are you and I am I, if we find each other it will be beautiful”. Word of advice to campus love birds -be prudent about what you say for it can have future implications! But cherish the intimate and care-free moments when you are together.

Features



“WITH LOVE WE SERVE”

“Knock, knock, knock”

“Hey, are you free tomorrow?” My housemate asked.

“What’s up?”

“My course-mates need your help to complete their computer programming assignment.”

This is how I first met Wei Hong.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wong Shaw Voon (B.Eng. Mechanical/System, 1997)
Dr. Lau Wei Hong (BSc. Microbiology, 1997)

WONG SHAW VOON:

From a boy’s school in Penang, entering mechanical engineering programme in UPM, I had very little opportunity in dealing with the female “creature”. Thus, my housemate volunteered to be my strategic advisor. I thought he was the expert in “pak-tho”-logy, but he was not even a pathologist. Luckily, he did manage to bring me closer to a gorgeous insect pathologist.

Here came my “nightmare” ... you probably once saw a boy sitting on his Honda EX5, waiting, standing or sitting alone in the Virology Laboratory of the Biochemistry and Microbiology Department at late evening - just to test my luck so that I could have an opportunity to have dinner with my dream girl. Since then, I can no longer have any control over my dinner...

LAU WEI HONG:

“Hey, you know, my housemate is a genius”. “Don’t torture him too much-lah, give him a chance”

My coursemate once kept reminding me from time to time.

I heard about the “genius” Wong from my coursemate who was also his housemate even before I completed the computer programming assignment in their house. One afternoon in 1996, my coursemate “accidentally” brought along Shaw Voon to the laboratory which I used to conduct my experiments. Since then, I would find Shaw Voon around the department and the laboratory.

Both of us graduated with Bachelor degree in 1997 from UPM. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wong Shaw Voon graduated with Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical/System) and joined Faculty of Engineering, UPM as a lecturer in 2000. He is now seconded to Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS), a research institute under the Ministry of Transport Malaysia, as a Director of Vehicle Safety & Biomechanics Research Centre.

I, in the other hand earned a Bachelor of Science (honour) major in Microbiology in 1997. Upon graduating with PhD in Molecular Biology (Faculty of Science), I joined the Faculty of Agriculture UPM in 2002. Currently I am actively involved in inventories of arthropods together with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia. My research interest has progressed from virology to arachnology and now works on environmentally friendly insect control methods using beneficial microbes and spider venom compounds.

UPM has been nurturing our successes in academy and career, and Serdang has witnessed our journey of love.





“MY LIFELONG PASSION for UPM”

Teza Alfindo Rosyid (MSc Food Technology, Semester 6, 2011/2012)

My name is Teza Alfindo Rosyid and I come from Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia. When visiting Malaysia for a vacation, I decided to choose UPM, a reputed university in Malaysia to continue my master program in food technology. In July 2008 I joined the Faculty of Food Science and Technology Universiti Putra Malaysia. Having worked for two years, I felt like I was a new student as this was the first time I got back to campus since graduation. This time I will do my very best to do as much learning, so that I can prepare myself for my future career.

I would like to share an interesting moment that had led me to finding my soul mate. I volunteered to assist the judges in a food product innovation competition program ‘Product Launching’, annually held for undergraduates by the Faculty. Indeed I was excited to assist the judges and my duty was to give the marks to the groups that participated in the competition. During judging, we came to a group called the “Karatofu” when my attention was drawn to a beautiful girl in the team. She was very shy as her face would blush when you stared at her. I have met many undergraduates before, but this girl however struck me. As I was more focused on my task I did not have the opportunity to talk to her except for a brief smile to her. However, deep in me I was thinking “Oh God, if my soul mate that you send to me is her, then I must get closer to her. If she’s not my soul mate then move me away from her”. During the judging I was delighted when the judge announced that “Karatofu” was the first winner and I manage to catch her smile. We took photograph of the winning team and for me it was a meaningful moment as I could keep a photo of the memorable event with her presence.



Unfortunately it took me quite long to know her if not for the social media “Friendster”... Finally I got to know her name to be “Norina” and she is from Penang. We communicated via the internet and met at the faculty and became good friends. Despite the difference in our upbringing, being from different country and cultures, we agreed to hang out together as friends. After graduation Norina got a job in Seremban and we communicated less frequently as Norina was adjusting to her new career while I was busy with my research.

However, in the month of Ramadan we met for *iftar* on Malaysian Merdeka Day 31 August 2009. It was during this time that I expressed my feeling for her. We realized that we adored each other and wished to continue with our relationship. I was confident she was the right person and agreed to meet her parents to get their consent and proposed that their daughter would be my wife. *Alhamdulillah* with their blessings, in September 2010, my parents from Indonesia came for the engagement. Both of our families agreed and with blessing of Allah SWT we were married in May 2011. It was an unexpected beginning but with a happy ending and the two of us will always remember our *Alma mater* where our love started. I, Teza Alfindo Rosyid hopes to graduate by December 2011.

Since UPM began as a humble school of agriculture, and through the years of its growth, there was never any doubt among its administrators and alumni that UPM would one day become the nation's premier internationally-recognised higher institution. To say therefore, that UPM's outstanding growth over the past 80 years is a culmination of the hopes and vision of its past and present leaders, would not be an overstatement.



Transformation to Excellence **NIK MUSTAPHA'S**

ASPIRATION

Dr. Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)

As years passed and one leader took over from another, and as new generations of management teams began emerging with their new visionary acumen and intellect, UPM found itself surpassing its inceptive identity and assuming a complete shift in positioning which began with the name change exercise in 1997. Although the exercise initially came with a concern that UPM's main focus on agriculture may be lost in the process, UPM went on to become a multidisciplinary university of reputable standing.

During these periods of rapid growth, UPM attained numerous credentials and awards locally and internationally, a pride shared by not just by the top management, but the campus communities and alumni as well. When the government declared that local matured IHLs would have to upscale its academic and research capacities, UPM being one of the established universities

then, began charting its direction in these areas. This was a timely move, for it was during the tenure of the fourth Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Ir Mohd Zohadie Bardaei, and UPM had then just begun the process of instituting a new course towards rapid growth in its academic and research areas through its 10- year Strategic Plan.

It served as a guide for further growth when the fifth Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Dato' Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah took over in 2006 as the fifth Vice Chancellor and declared that the plan would be carried through till the end of the ten-year term in 2010. Within a short period of time after that, the impact of the 10-year Strategic Plan had begun showing itself and UPM was proclaimed in 2006 as one of the Research Universities (RU) in the country by the Ministry of Higher Education.

A huge contributing factor that had helped empower UPM's mission to become a Research University (RU) was UPM's leadership and the productivity and effectiveness of the university community under its guidance. Under the helm of Tan Sri Dato' Dr Nik Mustapha Nik Mustapha, the initiatives to become a RU found unyielding support, and guided by it, UPM's Corporate Affairs Division began crystallising the new corporate identity and policies and applying them to initiate achievement-driven changes across the University. All these were carried out towards elevating UPM's standing on the national and international fronts. The results were the achievements of the RU status and the Academic Performance Audit (APA) status. In 2010, UPM was awarded the Self Accreditation Status by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).



Among the aspects that helped boost UPM's status as a RU are UPM's exceptional ingenuity, the strength of its organisation, the faculty, staff, student body, and its highly-regarded innovations.

To set things in motion in accordance to the RU status, major transformations were carried out in the administrative areas, especially in the Registrar's Office. The involvement of industries and the communities were initiated as one of the major thrust areas. UPM Holdings was also formed during this time as the business arm of university with the objective of maximising the usage of all the infrastructure and assets of the

university, especially the human assets. The success of all these was proven when UPM won the Financial Management Quality 2007 (the Statutory Bodies category) award.

Meanwhile, to ensure that UPM continued its efforts to produce exceptional, knowledgeable and employable students, initiatives such as the establishment of the Co-curriculum Centre was set in place to oversee the inculcation of soft skills or GSA (generic student attributes) in students, in line with aspiration of the Ministry of Higher Learning. The creation of the Mobility and Internship programmes were also part of the initiatives and they were created to enhance students' learning processes of the real world and help equip them with the right social and professional skills.

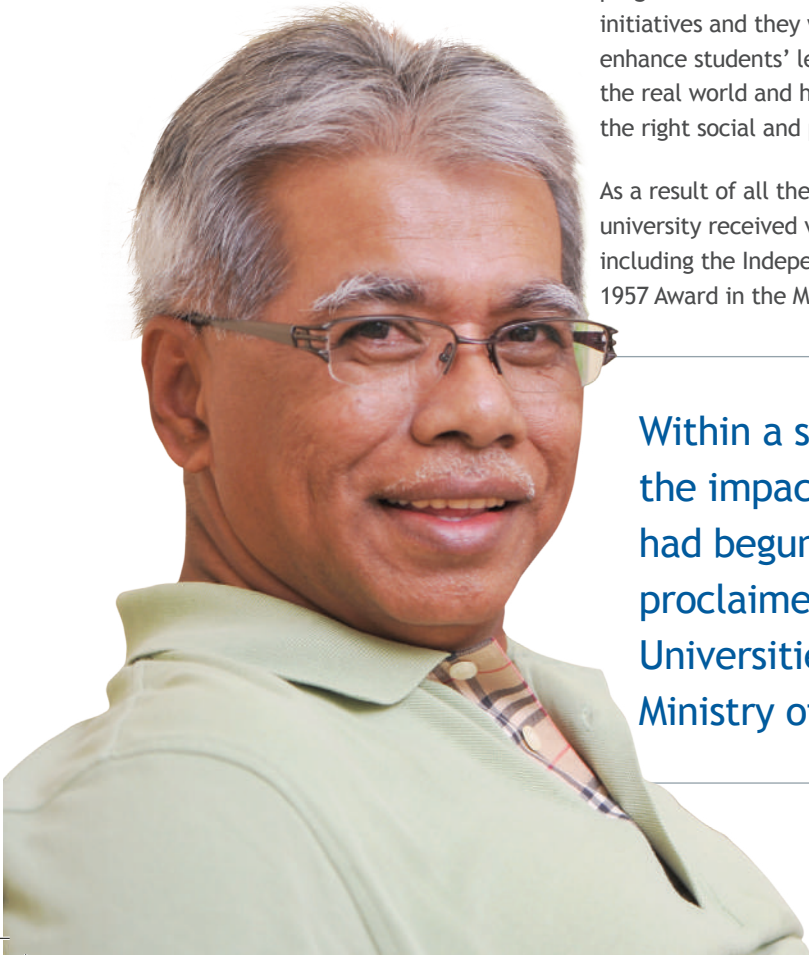
As a result of all these efforts, the university received various recognitions including the Independence Award 1957 Award in the Malaysia's Prominent

Products & Services category at the Independence Award 2010, top ranking in the Webometrics Web of World Universities and 4icu.org University Web Ranking, accreditation by The Royal Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) London in Bachelor of Environmental and Occupational Health (the First Public Institution in Malaysia be thus accredited) and Technology Business Review ASEAN Awards 2007 and 2008 for Excellence in Education Sector for a Research University.

On a purely academic level, UPM is one of the top four public institutions of higher learning (IPTA) to have retained the Research University (RU) status in July 2010, and UPM's Graduate School of Management (GSM) was recognized in 2008 as one of Malaysia's Top Business Schools, and as the institution to offer the Top 3 MBA Programmes in Southeast Asia and top 9 in Asia.

In the areas of research, as a result of producing more than 15 commercialised products and more than 9 patents, UPM was honoured for its Outstanding Scientific and Technological Contribution to the Development of Member Country of OIC by Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in 2008 and was awarded the Special Jury Award at the National Intellectual Property Day 2009. Also in 2008, UPM was conferred the National Intellectual Property Award for Organization Category and Individual Category. On its own merit, UPM's Institute Bioscience was accorded the status of Higher Education Centre of Excellence (HiCoE) in 2010.

Within a short period of time after that, the impact of the 10-year Strategic Plan had begun showing itself and UPM was proclaimed in 2006 as one of the Research Universities (RU) in the country by the Ministry of Higher Education.



PROFITING FROM
MALAYSIA'S
ECONOMIC
TRANSFORMATION
PROGRAMME"
in conjunction with the
General Meeting
Association



Anas Ahmad Nasarudin (Dip Agri, 1976; B.Eng., 1984)



UPM ALUMNI WEEKEND 2011

30 April 2011 marks a very special date where the Alumni Union orchestrated the 'Alumni Weekend'.

The idea is to have a weekend that can be earmarked by Alumni as a regular annual meet. For this inaugural year, which was held on Saturday 30th April, coincided with the biennial AGM of the Association.

What draws the widest and larger number of 'old boys' to their *Alma mater* would be a combination of activities that excites them. Some would be drawn by sporting activities such as golf, rugby and others common intellectual interest provided by forums and seminars. And often too, many would want to let their hair down to have 'fun and laughter' and reminisce on a dinner occasion held as a finale for the reunion weekend. The dinner was sponsored by the batches of the "insane 60's and 70's".



UPM has gone way beyond its traditional role of merely producing human capital for the agricultural industry..

ETP Forum in Conjunction with PAUPM's Annual General Meeting (9.30-12.00 p.m.)

The topic *Profiting from Malaysia's Economic Transformation Programme* has been chosen out of the desire to avail a platform to understand and share strategies for the UPM fraternity and alumni participate in the economic era of the nation. Not many would have known today that UPM has gone way beyond its traditional role of merely producing human capital for the agricultural industry. Today many alumni have found, and future graduates could be seeking careers as *inter alia* educationist, industrialist, ICT experts, accountants, bankers, architects, and even medical doctors. Even what used to be just agricultural engineering has seen the engineering faculty even producing aeronautical engineers. The UPM Alumni fraternity, recognizing the challenge to avail job and business opportunities are certainly excited about the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), the new approach the Government is moving the nation. The fraternity would not want to be left out. Organising such forum certainly was viewed as one major step.

Moderated by Prof Dr. Tai Shzee Yew, Deputy VC (Industry & Community Relations) the panelists consists of a balance mix of national industry strategist, corporate as well as business minds. The seminar participants certainly were humbled and happy to see their *Great Cikgu* Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohd. Noor to have led a panel comprised of Khazanah Nasional's Dr. NungSari Ahmad Radhi and well known corporate figure Dato' Khalid Ahmad.

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohd. Noor's wisdom as an icon of the agricultural fraternity provided hindsight on corporate as well government sector, giving a balance examination of the GTP and ETP. Tan Sri's perspective of the relevance of ETP and growth of the plantation sector sets a realistic perspective to the agricultural industry.

Dato' Khalid Ahmad, more popularly described as media industry maverick but who had also covered breath and depth in many of the other industries - banking, energy, education, properties provided some understanding of many opportunity windows from an investors perspective. More than 100 Entry Point Projects

(EPPs) declared by Dr. Nungsari provides in a methodological manner to boost Malaysia's industrial growth plan towards achieving vision 2020.

Questions from the floor were contributed by Dato' Dr. Hashim, Dr. Osman Atil, Dato' Seri Syed Razlan and many GSM students. Judging by the varied perspectives raised on the topic, one certainly would conclude that the forum has illustrated its role to provoke and titillate the minds of more than 300 Serdang fraternity present. The need for a sequelae has been voiced by many.

UPM Alumni Association Annual General Meeting (12.00-1.30 p.m.)

The 2011 PAUPM Annual General Meeting was held at the Engineer Auditorium, Faculty of Engineering, UPM immediately after the ETP Forum. The two hours- long meeting was filled with anxiety as some were already due to be present on the Golf field for the afternoon friendly golf event. This meeting attracted many senior members of the association, previously holding posts of Presidents and Vice Presidents. They were Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohd Noor Ismail (Alumni Class 1955), Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Putra Jamallulail (Alumni Class 1972) and Dato' Dr. Hashim Abd Wahab (Alumni Class 1959). Energizing the meet was the auspicious presence of Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Rashdan Baba (Alumni Class 1957). The AGM ended with the nominations of the new council for the two-year term 2011-2013.





Alumni Engagement through Lecture Series

DALS
1

18 February 2011
Agriculture Hall, Faculty of Agriculture
• Director General, MARDI

'Technology Frontier for Agriculture Transformation'

“ We really need to look creatively at how UPM can meaningfully engage alumni in ways both parties benefited, offering our alumni an avenue to stay connected to the university and allowing our future alumni to utilize these networks,” uttered the Director of Alumni Centre, Dr. Rohani Ibrahim during her opening remarks of the first distinguished alumni lecture series in 2011. She was confident that a Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) platform through a lecture series can be created for UPM alumni to share their knowledge and experiences with the campus community. Involving the faculty they were once associated with before is an effective way and will provide good impact. This new program is jointly organized by the Alumni Centre supported by UPM Alumni Association, Faculties and the Corporate Communications Division (BKK).

Faculty of Agriculture became the first faculty to convene the DALS with YBhg. Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor Abd Rahman, the Director General of MARDI as the first DALS speaker. His lecture on 'Technology Frontier for Agriculture Transformation' discussed the global scenario affecting agriculture industries was relevant to the university and the industry. The lecture attracted a crowd of more than 200 people. Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor also stressed on the impact of global scenario that influenced agriculture production, challenges in current agriculture, issues concerning competitiveness and lack of product innovation. He reiterated that continuous innovation through utilization of frontier technologies in the whole value chain of agriculture is required by the nation. Datuk Dr. Abd Shukor, an alumnus who graduated with Bachelor of Agriculture Science in 1978 felt proud to be given the honor to start the maiden series of DALS.

Branded as 'Distinguished UPM Alumni Lecture Series: Living the Serdang Story' or DALS, this lecture series showcase alumni engagement with UPM. As an annual event, distinguished alumni identified by the faculty will be invited to share his/her career and life experience, and thus providing an opportunity for them to give back to the *Alma mater* through their faculty. It is hoped that this program will demonstrate the role of future UPM Alumni as ambassador, the keepers of tradition of excellence, supporter of the university, and at the same time inculcate the sense of pride and belonging to UPM.

Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan (BSc Consumer Science, 2006)
Dr Rohani Ibrahim (Dip Agri, 1972)





DALS
2

1 March 2011

Lecture Hall, UPMKB

- Director of Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak

'The Need for Strong Collaborative Engagement in Livestock Production'

The Alumni Centre continued with the 2nd DALs away from the main campus at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, UPM Campus Bintulu (UPMKB). Alumnus Class 1979, Dr. Humrawali Hazid Ahmad Khan, Director of Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture, Sarawak shared his experience and views with more than 200 audiences in a lecture that described his dedications in livestock production.

In his lecture, Dr. Humrawali expressed his concern about in the livestock sectors in Malaysia.

He encouraged students to take up courses related to Animal Health and Production and seized the opportunities to learn as much while they are on campus...

Dr. Humrawali also gave his time to lecture on animal production during weekends at UPMKB and offered the students, attachment to the Veterinary Division, Department of Agriculture during their semester breaks. The lecture was fascinating as everyone including Professor Dr. Japar Sidik, the Dean appeared glued to their seats throughout the two hours sessions.

DALS
3

25 March 2011

Lecture Hall, Faculty of Educational Studies

- CEO, Yayasan Budi Penyayang

'Era of Connectivity: English Connects'

UPM seized the opportunity to invite a prominent lady, YBhg. Dato' Leela Mohd Ali, CEO Yayasan Budi Penyayang and UPM alumnus 1991 back to the Faculty of Educational Studies for the third series of DALs. Leela, an English teacher with 35 years experience (1960-1994), brought to light issues impacting the university education in the country with critical issues on English language during the era of Information and Technology.

Dato' Leela captivated and occasionally provoked the audience with her concerns about the mastery of English by students and even staff nowadays. Her broad knowledge in the teaching of English, her passion for the subject matter and her networks is an asset to enrich the faculty that she talked dotingly.

DALS
4

15 April 2011

Forestry Lecture Hall, Faculty of Forestry

- Director General, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia

'New Insights in Forestry'

DALS Series 4 brought back the Faculty of Forestry's Bachelor of Forestry 1978 alumnus, YBhg. Dato' Razani Ujang, Director General, Forestry Department of Peninsular, Malaysia to campus. His lecture on forestry and greening was very pertinent to bring awareness on the current status and new information on the country natural heritage and treasure - our Malaysian Forest.

Dato' Razani Ujang has over 33 years experience in forestry service and had served the government in various capacities. He stressed that it is important for the nation to have knowledge, expertise and awareness towards forest conservation in order to prevent further destruction of forests. He added that unsustainable forestry practices are threats and that the forest areas are vital as habitat for flora and fauna, water resources and moderate climate changes.

Upcoming DALs

COMING soon other 12 faculties will be lining up their distinguished alumni for the DALs.

We are indeed thankful to all entities that have worked closely with the Alumni Centre to organize these lectures. We are pleased to see beneficial outcomes from the program; better alumni engagement, mutual value proposition, enhanced profile for the *Alma mater* and the alumni and flourishing enthusiasm from future alumni and faculty community. As organizers, what more can we asked for!

*Connecting to
Alumni through*
Outreach @ Sarawak

Saiful Bahrie Abd. Manap (B. Econ, 2003)
Zakaria Sidek (Associate Alumni, 1982)

Universiti Putra Malaysia recognises the value of building and sustaining a life-long relationship with their alumni. Alumni programmes developed for such purposes were extended beyond the main campus in Serdang and this time at the branch campus, UPMKB in Bintulu, Sarawak. It is essential to introduce and showcase alumni activities so that students will eventually become and can remain as engaged alumni and ultimately become contributors to the *Alma mater* financially or just by joining any alumni activities on or off campus.

To help UPM expand and strengthen these relationships, the Alumni Centre shared and featured some of the alumni activities normally conducted in Serdang and this time done at UPMKB during a four-day visit to Sarawak on 28 February to 3 March 2011. These programs include the Alumni Mentorship Program, Residential College Outreach Programmes and Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series (DALs). While the intention was to inculcate the tradition of giving and a culture of bonding amongst the alumni, these programmes specifically provided opportunities and platforms for alumni in Sarawak to return to the campus and be engaged and shared their success stories with the students. This has nurtured enthusiasm among them, and thus create positive awareness of their roles as UPM alumni in supporting the university.



Although the four days visit to Sarawak was focused in Bintulu Campus (UPMKB), interestingly our presence in Sarawak was well received by the UPM Alumni Chapter at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and the Department of Agriculture, Kuching. They both eagerly hosted the get-togethers for the alumni working in the vicinity of the capital city of Sarawak. Throughout the visit, alumni, staff and students were excited with the outreach programmes organised at Bintulu. Each programme attracted more than 250 students. We were thrilled to see over 30 alumni turned up for the Kuching UPM Alumni Chapter gathering at the Department of Agriculture, Kuching. The discussion with UNIMAS UPM Alumni

Chapter went smoothly although the number that came was small, it was benefiting to those that attended.

Judging from the good response and positive comments during the activities, as a whole, the outreach program to Sarawak has achieved the objective of ensuring a connection between the two campuses and the alumni chapters. More encouraging was when the final evaluation of the programmes indicated that more than 70% of students at UPMKB expressed a very high sense of pride to be UPM students have expressed their interest to contribute to the *Alma mater* after they graduate.



Alumnus Dr. Evan Lau (B.Econ, 1999) shared his thought during the meeting.



Throughout the visit, alumni, staff and students were excited with the outreach programmes organised at Bintulu which had attracted more that 250 students per programme conducted...



Lim Feng Feng (Dip Buss. Studies 2005)

Like Father Like Daughter

'L ♥ V E for BAHASA & POEM'

Knowing my father's accomplishment and seeing him on the cover of magazines and newspaper coverage created a strong feeling of admiration and respect for him. I am continuing my family's legacy, the appreciation of Bahasa Melayu especially for Malay Poem and Poetry. Writing and reciting Malay poetry aptitude run in the family. My father has been a role model for me not only in reciting poem, but also sharing the same *Alma mater*.

My mom, Selina S.F. Lee, holds a Bachelor in Education (PBMP) and Master in Malay Language and Linguistic from UPM previously attached to Magazine Department Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka as an editor, now retired fully. My dad, Dr. Lim Swee Tin an Associate Professor at Department of Malay Language (Jabatan Bahasa Melayu), also a well known figure among the Poetry recital in Malaysia. He earned his Bachelor in Education (PBMP) degree, Master in Malay Literature and PhD in Malay Literature from UPM.

I considered myself a true alumnus of UPM, my sense of connection to UPM expanded from my Diploma days to

currently seeking to finish my graduate work in International Business. UPM is home to me as I did my Diploma of Business Management, Faculty of Economic (2005) and then went on to continue my undergraduate in Communications specialising in journalism graduated in 2008. My connection expanded till today as I hope to soon graduate with my Master program, majoring in International Business.

Looking back, it is strange as I studied a totally different program for the three certificates I did at UPM, nevertheless family's tradition of closely knit and love for culture, influenced of my upbringing. Being among Malay students and having many good Malay friends is also a factor. I speak Malay, more of the Kelantanese dialect and this has naturally influenced me to love the language and has a special love for poetry, writing and reciting.

Fheng Feng, fondly refers to herself as Imm, is proud of her father's accomplishment and anticipates a

future of which her family would be proud of, to continue the legacy that is truly associated with the brand that her father has started for the family. Imm on many occasions appeared with her father to recite the poem, the most meaningful ones was at the "Majlis Penutupan Pidato Antarabangsa Kali ke-2" at PWTC. Individually, she participated in many events as the Malay poem reciter, the momentous event was when she was announced the winner for the Malaysia Independence Poem Recital for the Category Non Malay in 2009. She talked fondly of the events she participated; the Poem Recital Angkasapuri (*Deklamasi Puisi Angkasapuri*) and Yayasan Perdana Putrajaya for *Deklamasi Puisi Jejak Perdana*.

I am indeed indebted to UPM, for on many occasions I was given the opportunity to give back through special programs at the faculty and university level. I indeed want to thank my family for motivating and boosting my skill in poem reciting and that they always remind me that I have to carry UPM brand very well and proudly. Lim Feng Feng wants to continue the legacy initiated by her parents and truly she is on the way to be an upcoming young beacon in the world of Malay poetry writing and reciting in Malaysia. Currently I am attached as a producer of programs in Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM).

SENSE OF BELONGING & PRIDE



I love this university, borne from this institution and I even spent my whole career life at UPM till retirement. Work has always been a joy and pleasure, giving my best to create programs for alumni and students to connect them closer to their *Alma mater*. While you hear me echoed this sense of pride and belonging and how passionate I am about my giving back to my beloved institution UPM, I have dedicated this section to our alumni and friends who shared comparable sentiments. Although variously expressed in their sense of connection, but coherent is how proud they are to be linked to Universiti Putra Malaysia to eventually carry the brand"... – Rohani Ibrahim

YPR Connection

Mohd Syafik Mohamad Hamdan (Bsc. Agri, Semester 5, 2011/2012)

My journey in Universiti Putra Malaysia began at the Centre of Foundation Studies in Agricultural Science (ASPER) in 2007. There I had the opportunity and reaped the joy of being groomed and nurtured by many experienced lecturers and support staff.

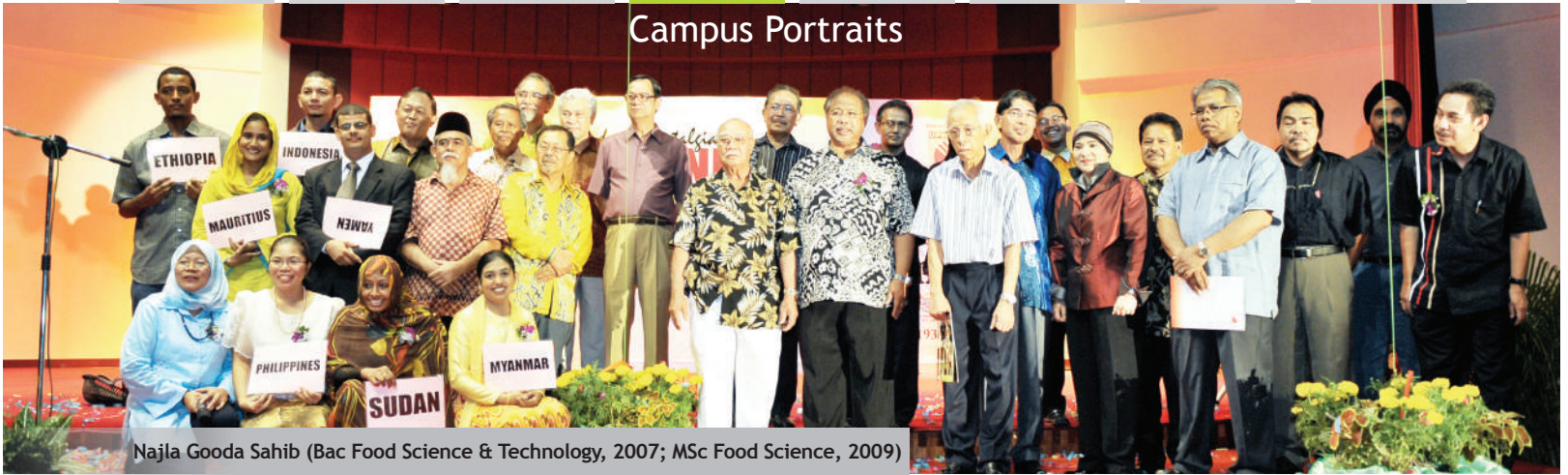
Syafiq: honoured to be the first recipient of YPR scholarship.



There were many fond memories at ASPER that I cherished, in particular as students working together planting corn and vegetables conventionally and also working on modern fertigation system to produce Musk Melon. Many funny and fond memories were shared. For some of us, it was our first experience to use the hoe! My thirst for agriculture dicipline brings me to the Faculty of Agriculture as a student in Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 2009. During the first semester, I was lucky to be short listed for the Yayasan Pak Rashid (YPR) scholarship interview. I was very delighted and honoured to be selected as the sole recipient of the scholarship.

As a YPR scholar, I was given a chance to occasionally do volunteer work with the Alumni Centre. Here I have indirectly learnt more about the Board of Trustees of YPR; they are prominent UPM alumni icons and some are top management of UPM. I also have the opportunity to complete an internship program during semester break under YPR attachment program with CCM, a leading agriculture company. UPM has given me a lot of opportunities to improve myself and as a future alumnus, I am ever ready to contribute and give back to the betterment of my *Alma mater* presently and in the future.

Campus Portraits



Najla Gooda Sahib (Bac Food Science & Technology, 2007; MSc Food Science, 2009)

M A D E I N U P M

If human beings had labels, mine will be without doubt **“100% Made in UPM”**. My name is Najla Gooda Sahib, from the tiny paradise-like island of Mauritius. I came to Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2004 for my bachelor degree in Food Science and Technology and started working on a master degree in food science in 2007.

I graduated in 2009 and I am currently pursuing my PhD with a scholarship from the Islamic Development Bank, under the supervision of Assoc Prof Dr Azizah Hamid at the Faculty of Food Science and Technology.

Like any 18 year old, freshly graduated with A-Levels, I wanted to pursue my degree in a foreign university. I chose UPM for its relatively reasonable tuition fees and the proximity to my country. Since the first day, I have developed a love relationship with UPM and it holds a special place in my heart. My first semester was a ride full of bumps, trying to adjust

myself to the huge campus, learning the language and trying to develop a love for spicy foods. In the six years that followed, I found myself now fluent in “Bahasa Malaysia”, a regular visitor of “Pasar Malam” with a special love for roadside “nasi lemak”.

On a more serious note, UPM is the place where I grew up and became an adult. The university and the special people here all contributed to my academic achievements and success. I have had good lecturers who not only imparted knowledge but also motivated me to strive higher and better. Every UPM student should realize how lucky they are, being on such a big and beautiful campus that offers great research opportunities.

In 2008, I was the first postgraduate student from Malaysia to be awarded the prestigious SEARCA scholarship for one semester exchange program at the University of British Columbia (UBC), in Canada. One thing that really surprised me was that even though UBC is among the top ranking university in the world, my research lab in UPM was just as well-equipped, with the latest technologies. I learned from this experience that the grass might not necessarily be greener on the other side, I am happy to have again chosen UPM for my PhD work.

We should value what we have here and I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in making UPM a research-based university. There is no doubt that UPM has been making its way towards becoming a reputed university that focus on tropical agriculture. There are many opportunities for UPM students to showcase their research and obtain recognition at an international level. In 2009, just after I submitted my master thesis for examination, I was awarded a student and travel bursary by the Royal Chemical Society, United Kingdom to present my work on anti-obesity effects of Malaysian Herbs, at the Conference on “Functional Molecules from Natural Sources” held at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. I was one of the few students awarded the bursary worldwide and it was a great achievement and moment for me, I was proud to represent UPM.

Finally, as an alumnus of UPM and also as a continuing student, the only advice I want to give to my fellow friends is to make the most of the time they have here in UPM and Malaysia. We must take advantage of all the research facilities available at UPM, without forgetting to have fun and discover the new cultures. It is crucial for us to be ethical researchers and be open to suggestions as at the end of the day, our contribution is important to make UPM known globally.



Edward Peralta (MSc Aquatic Biology & Ecology, 2004)

When I was asked to submit this article, my sense of belonging to UPM, I immediately decided to make sure that I truly express what I meant and did my research on the web and examine my feelings.

IMMERSING IN THE COMMUNITY

To me, a “sense of belonging” is the feeling of being connected and accepted to one’s family, friends, community, university and any group or club. It promotes one’s health, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Any person who feels alone, isolated, different or excluded will tend to feel like life is worthless. We all want a sense of belonging, of being part of something bigger than us.

When I first came to UPM, I was stunned by the diversity of students! Different faces, colors, language....local students alone in the university were varied, I see Indians, Malays, Chinese, and others whom I cannot even tell which race. Then I got more confused. I have classmates from all over the world. They are students from Nigeria, Sudan, China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. I cannot



even remember how to pronounce their names, let alone remember them! I asked myself, “How am I going to deal with all these people?” “How am I going to make friends with them?” It was really an agony and full of anxiety.

After so much thought, I realized that this predicament will be an opportunity for me. I must get to know the International

Student Association and joined the group. I started to feel so much better, I slowly began to transform. I felt like I have a family, though away from home.

The time spent in UPM has taught me so much...not only about myself, but about other people and their cultures.

I am amazed at how UPM staff handled all these people from different nations, each one has his or her own ideals, own needs, and own interpretations of things. How did UPM group together all these international students so that they behave as one entity in the midst of chaos? In the end, I stopped asking all these questions as I realized they are immersed into the system and they have become a part of the community. I am now settled and feel very proud that I am part of this great university! I feel proud that I have become a part of UPM and in so many ways, it will remain in me forever.



2011 so far... (Alumni Activities)

17 Feb - Discussion on USM Alumni Foundation



Welcome Visitors to Alumni Centre



23 Feb. - UiTM Moderator e-Alumni



25 May - Visit from UNIMAS



27 May - Visit from UPM

Alumni Mentorship Programme



Sciences Cluster Students





Alumni Outreach Programme



Outreach with KOSASS students



Alumni Weekends @ MAEPS *(The Song Remains the Same)*



Coming Events

SERDANG HERITAGE FORUM



BERILMU BERBAKTI

23 September 2011

The Serdang Heritage Forum usually organised in conjunction with UPM ALUMNI DAY 21 MAY will be held on September 2011. The forum aims to raise the level of interest, awareness and knowledge on the importance of keeping the tradition of excellence by UPM community and alumni. Going forward for UPM is to continually instill upon the campus community and future alumni their sense of pride, responsibility in upholding the university's motto "BERILMU BERBAKTI or WITH KNOWLEDGE WE SERVE"

See you all there. For details please contact Alumni Centre 03-89496079 or visit the Website www.alumni.upm.edu.my

WORKSHOP ON MANAGING BASAL STEM ROT (BSR) OF OIL PALM

Organiser:

YAYASAN PAK RASHID

Look out for the upcoming workshops for field assistants, assistant managers and supervisors of oil palm estates and plantations. Those who deal with field management of oil palm estates and plantations would be keen to be trained by UPM leading experts on oil palm disease management.

Limited places are available!

17 – 18 November 2011

FOR ENQUIRIES

- Dr Sharifuddin Abd Hamid
Chairman BSR WORKSHOP
Email: sharii43@yahoo.com
- Dr Rohani Ibrahim
Secretriariat Yayasan Pak Rashid
Email: rohanib@putra.upm.edu.my



MENTORSHIP FORUM FOR SUCCESS

Life & Employability Skills

A new format of mentoring will be offered to UPM students so as to rejuvenate the current format of Alumni Mentorship Program organized the Alumni Centre. The mentoring partnership is between alumni and people from the industry to share experiences and expertise to help with personal and professional growth of students. It is a simple form of people helping people to grow and develop.

Organiser

ALUMNI CENTRE

Co-organisers

**UPM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION &
CHAPTERS, JINM & FACULTY**

December 2011

**A Not To Miss Event! Be On
The Look Out!**

For more details, please visit the alumni website
www.alumni.upm.edu.my

UPM alumni update form



1 personal details

Name :

I.C. No. / Passport No * :

Programme : Diploma Bachelor Master Ph.D

Field of Study :

Faculty :

Year of Graduation :

State/ Country :

2 contact details

Permanent Home Address :

Office/ Business Address :

Position :

Telephone nos. : Home : Mobile :
Office : Fax :

E-mail :

UPM alumni online Community

Kindly visit our website and update your address with us from time to time
We thank you for your co-operation. This data will be kept in the UPM Alumni database
for future correspondences.

Please photocopy and help us distribute to your alumni friends. Sent completed form to:

Alumni Centre, Bangunan C13, Lorong Pongamia, 43400 Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Tel : 03-8946 7886 / 8946 6079 / 8946 6080 Fax : 03-8656 6933 Email: www.alumni.upm.edu.my

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