



## PROF. DATIN PADUKA DR. AINI IDERIS IS NEW UPM VICE-CHANCELLOR

**PUTRAJAYA** - Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor for Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for a duration of two years, effective January 1, 2016 until December 31, 2017.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini, who is the Director of UPM Corporate Strategy and Communications Office, replaces Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan whose tenure as UPM Vice-Chancellor ended on December 31 last year. She received her formal letter of appointment from Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris expressed her gratitude to Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan for his leadership qualities and contributions towards UPM while he was the Vice-Chancellor, saying under the latter's tenure, the university had succeeded to maintain its excellence as a leading university at both the national and international levels.

"I also want to express my gratitude to Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh for the trust, opportunity and mandate given to me to continue with the legacy to give the best of services to the university.

"With this appointment, I will strive harder to enhance UPM's achievements as a leading research university in order to steer and bring the image of the country to a higher level, in addition to continuing with the efforts for more successes and academic excellence amidst the challenges, particularly the need for a paradigm shift in enhancing the quality of the nation's agriculture sector," she said.

Formerly UPM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) from December 2008 to November 2013, she was instrumental in the preparations for the university's SWA Accreditation, autonomy and other curriculum-related improvements as well as teaching and learning at UPM.

With her vast knowledge in dealing with issues at both the national and ministerial levels, she has held various positions in the past, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Committee Chairman/Rector (Academic and International) of IPTA from January 2012 to 2013, chairman/member in various other committees at the Higher Education Ministry/ Education Ministry, Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris is a renowned scientist in detecting and controlling avian diseases through the commercialization of a "Newcastle" vaccine in 1995 and "fowl pox" culture tissues in 1996 which had penetrated the market in nine countries.

In 2005, she was involved in a joint research in the commercialization of an important vaccine for chickens to fight against contagious bursal diseases. Her team of researchers also developed several diagnosis kits for fast detection of avian influenza (bird's flu which is a zoonotic disease), 'Newcastle' and 'Mycoplasmosis' diseases.

In 2011, Prof. Aini received the National Academic Award (Anugerah Akademik Negara (AAN) 2010 under the Innovation and Product Commercialization category for her success in the innovation and commercialization of 'Newcastle' disease vaccine (ND V4-UPM).

She was also named as one of 10 researchers for Anugerah Inovasi Negara 2012, Anugerah Alumni Terbilang UPM 2012 and was announced as 2013 Malaysia Best Research Scientist.

The climax of her success was in 2013 when she was absorbed to be an inaugural member of Honour of the World Veterinary Poultry Association, the most prestigious achievement in scientific, training and health teaching on avian as well as leadership community in developing nations.

**Additional information on her educational background and career**



She was born on March 23, 1953 in Kota Bharu, Kelantan and received her early education at Sekolah Kebangsaan Langgar and Sekolah Kebangsaan Kota before pursuing her secondary study at Sekolah Tun Fatimah, Johor Bahru. After obtaining her degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (now Universiti Putra Malaysia – UPM), she was appointed as UPM tutor in 1979.

She pursued her postgraduate studies at the University of Liverpool, England where she was awarded the Master in Veterinary Sciences (MVSc) in the field of Avian Medicine (1981). In 1989, she was conferred the PhD from UPM,

specializing in the same field. She, subsequently, underwent a post-doctorate training at the University of California, Davis, USA (1990-1992) and in 1993, she was conferred the Asian Development Bank Fellowship to undergo a training at the University of Cornell, USA.

Her interest has always been in the research of breathing and immunosuppressive avian diseases. The vaccines were among the first products to have been commercialized by higher institutions of learning in Malaysia and served as the first product example for technology transfer from university to the industry. The vaccines penetrated nine countries and are in the process of being registered in some other nations.

Her team was also responsible in developing halal vaccines where different approaches in bioreactor and development of new generational vaccines were adopted. Prof. Aini who led the research programmes on avian medicine, is presently the Coordinator for Pusat Kecemerlangan Kebangsaan Industri Burung Walit, responsible in determining the direction in relation to the swiftlet industry.

She was also active in the production and printing of over 400 articles, journals, books and proceedings. She was appointed as an Advisory Board member for several international journals and had been invited as Plenary Speaker in many international conferences.

Her determination and success as a scientist was recognized by professional bodies, both local and globally. She was appointed as the Malaysian Science Academic (FASc) Fellow in 2009. She was also the founding Fellow for the Malaysian College of Veterinary Specialists (FMCVS) and Fellow for the Malaysian Scientific Association (FMSA). In October 2011, she was chosen to be the Fellow for the Islamic World of Academy of Sciences (FIAS).

Other research awards that Professor Aini had obtained included the Vice-Chancellor's Fellowship Award – under the Excellent Research category (2007), Excellent Bioscience Research Award (2007) and Commercialization Award (2008). Her team also grabbed the 2008 Innovation Research Award for the Public and Private Sectors where she was one of the researchers.

Prof. Aini also possessed vast experiences in administration. She was the Acting Head of Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies (1989, 1990), Chairman of Veterinary Studies Hospital (1992-1998) where she was involved in extending the service in the treatment of poultry diseases and Deputy Dean (Academic and Students' Affairs) of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty for nine years (1992-2001). She was responsible in the formulation and strengthening of the Veterinary Medicine Doctorate programmes and leader in the achievement of the first ISO certificate for UPM for the scopes of pre-graduates and graduates.

She was given the trust to head the Graduates' Studies Centre which was later renamed Sekolah Pengajian Siswazah as its Dean (May 2001-November 2008). It was during her stint for eight years as SPS Dean that Prof. Aini had brought about changes to the undergraduates' studies management system, making it more efficient and transparent.

She also introduced several new training modules for supervisors and undergraduates as the benchmark for other public universities. Prof. Aini was also appointed as the Chairman of Majlis Dekan Pengajian Siswazah (MDPS) IPTA Malaysia from 2005 to 2008. As MDPS chairman, she was responsible in organizing various conferences, including the conference on writing of guide books for supervisors towards a dynamic and more efficient system.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini is also actively involved as a member of the Malaysian Science Academy, member of the Malaysian College of Veterinary Specialists (MCVS), a member of the board of governance of the International Medical University (IMU) and International Medical College (IMC), member of the Board of Directors of Yayasan Putra Business School, member of the Board of Directors of the Malaysian Cancer Research Institute (MCRI), executive member of the Nasional Cancer Council (MAKNA) and various other organizations. She is also the founding chairman, member of the Board of Directors of UPM Holdings Sdn Bhd and the Founding President of the World Veterinary Poultry Association – Malaysia branch.

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