

# SerdangSun

a tradition of giving, a culture of bonding



ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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**IHSAN:** *Tonggak Kecemerlangan*

*The Path to Excellence*

*Achieving Excellence in  
Sports & Academic*



*Diving Queen*



*Malaysia Olympic  
Shooter*

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# Voice of

**F**or this issue (July-December, 2016) we would like to thank our alumni that had given helpful feedback and contribution to ACUPM. We will strengthen this cooperation to continue in shaping our programmes and activities that can attract more alumni to work together and collaborate with us.

We have successfully completed some of the activities such as Tracing Alumni for collaboration (TRACE) inter alia TRACE@Pahang and TRACE@Melaka, Bridges-Link @ Borneo, Pak Rashid Public Lecture 'Pak Rashid the Che'gu', Serdang Heritage, Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series (DALs), Alumni Mentorship Programme and others. We also had successfully pursued the international TRACE and Bridges-Link programme in Iran and Indonesia (Padang, Sumatera Barat, Riau and Medan). With these accomplishments, ACUPM succeeded in working together with UPM international alumni in order to advance and promote the name of UPM in the international arena.

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# of Editor

Each instance of good work shows a great result to ACUPM in fulfilling the requirement of KPI ACUPM (income generation) for 2016 which finally ACUPM managed to yet RM 1.89 million. The result came from all the hard work of ACUPM income generation teamwork and contribution from all of the alumni members and corporate companies within the year. Lastly, I would like to show gratitude to all of ACUPM officers and staff, the alumni members, corporate companies and others in supporting ACUPM programmes and activities. We are very proud and grateful for your cooperation. We planned to be more successful in the future.



# Green forestry

**DATO' SRI DR. HJ. ABD. RAHMAN BIN HJ. ABD. RAHIM**  
Director-General of Forestry, Peninsular Malaysia

By: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rasmina Halis (Alumni Class 2011)**

Edited by: **Lt. Cdr. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hasmadi Ismail RMNVR (Alumni Class 1996); Baharuddin Mohd. Shah (Alumni Class 1986)**

## Could you briefly provide us your personal, family and academic background?

Dato' Prof. Dr. Hj. Abd. Rahman was born on 2 March 1957 as the 10<sup>th</sup> among his siblings of Javanese descendants. His first education was in his hometown, Sekolah Kebangsaan Temoh. Temoh is a small town in the Batang Padang district of Perak, Malaysia. The town is located midway between Kampar and Tapah. His secondary study was in Sekolah Menengah Tapah (Government English Secondary School, GESS). He was a head boy in his school and actively involved with students activities. His favourite food is Laksa Penang.

In 1977, he started his first degree in Bachelor of Forestry at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia. During his student days, he was very active in student unions in his Fifth College and also in campus. His final year project was supervised by Prof. Dr. Khamis Awang and Prof Dr. Lim Meng Tsai. He got married in 1982 with a former UPM student after he graduated. He was granted him with 3 children. Then he pursue his Master degree in Forestry (MSc) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Yusuf Hadi and Prof. Dr. Awang Nor Abdul Ghani in 1987. His PhD is in Operational Research in Forestry from Aberdeen University in Scotland, United Kingdom in 1998. His specializations include forestry policy and development, silviculture, forest management, forest plantation and forest law enforcement. In UK, he was president of Nusantara (student society) at Aberdeen.

## What make you really love with your work now, and what is your philosophy in managing the organisation?

As a trained graduate in Forestry, his main passion is on Tropical Rain Forest and environment. Tropical Rain Forest is very diverse and unique as it has contributed a lot to the livelihood of the world community. He is really proud to be a forester. He was the person who started the development information system E-FORGRIS for FDP. In this regards, he wants all forestry personnel to



engage and commit in "an excellent working culture" by eliminating negative attitudes, implement positives attitude and continue to deliver the best service consistently.

## What are the secrets that motivate you to be a successful person?

We need to have a vision and always be positive. Rasullullah S.A.W should be our role model. We should have a mental and spiritual strength. He has 30 years of working experience with the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia and served in various positions including as Assistant State Forestry Director, Negeri Sembilan & Melaka, Director of Forest Plantation, Forestry Department Headquarters Peninsular Malaysia and Johor State Forestry Director and Deputy Director-General (Policy & Planning), Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia. He is currently the Director-General of Forestry of Peninsular Malaysia.

His vast knowledge in forestry enables him to work closely with various local agencies and organizations. In pursuant to his active involvement and contributions to the forestry projects particularly in National Coastal Protection Program in Malaysia, he has been appointed as Adjunct Professor at the Malaysia University of Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia for 2012-2013.



In the international arena, he has been actively involved in various regional and international activities related to forestry, including Chairman of Expert Panel to "ITTO Expert Panel for Project/Pre-project Appraisal and Evaluation", (1999-2000), Co-Chairman of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM) under the ITTC (2011), Co-Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC, 2012) and the Chairman of APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associate Trade for 2012-2013.

The existence of FDPM is about 110 years. We have the responsibility to ensure that FDPM will continue to play its role to be the agency of excellence in the sustainable management of tropical forest in tandem with the Government's Transformation Program (GTP).

The staff must be strongly equipped with vast knowledge, organisational skills and integrity. He introduced "bahtera hijau" concept where all the staff members must work together as a team.

### **How far is the progress in making foresters as a professional in Malaysia?**

Faculty of Forestry is the only who produces professional forester. The Bachelor of Forestry programme must be updated with new areas with regards to forestry, biodiversity and environment. The meeting with stakeholders can improve it. The introduction of Institute of Foresters Malaysia (IRIM) is where we can find professional foresters from both public and private sectors. It maintains and improves standard of practice and professionalism of

foresters, promotes and advances the science and practice of forestry, continually reviews the status of the forestry profession, provides advice to the government, the industry and public, holds meetings, workshops, seminars, visits.

### **Do you believe UPM can play a major role in the development and progress of forestry programme in country?**

Most of the FDPM staff are alumni from Faculty of Forestry. So UPM, plays important roles in producing graduates, not only with forestry knowledge but with good analytical and critical thinking skills. They have the opportunity to specialise in small- or large-scale plantations, restoration forestry, provision of environmental services, wood utilisation, forest inventory and international forestry.

### **Which part of the Campus or person (s) within UPM you really missed and why?**

He missed everyone. There were good and bad memories in UPM. The most memorable event in the Faculty of Forestry was during forest camp. There were many good memories during that month one month camping in Ayer Hitam Forest Camp survival. His group nama "Buluh Kito" with his classmates and seniors worked hard together. The best superduper lecturers were Prof. Khamis Awang and Prof. Dr. Lim Meng Tsai. Other lecturers that he admired were Prof Dr. Abdul Manaf, Prof. Awang Nor Abdul Ghani, Prof. Dr Jamil Sulung, En. Sulaiman, Dr. Sheikh Abood and Tuan Haji Abdurrahman Derus.

### **What are your advice to give to new alumni who are just graduating from UPM?**

His advice to the new alumni is they must would have to gain knowledge and a strong spiritual belief.



**H**is excellency Professor Dr. H. Irwan Prayitno, an UPM alumni of 1996 and presently the Governor of West Sumatra, Indonesia.



## Professor Dr. H. Irwan Prayitno Governor of West Sumatra, Indonesia a Professor and a Member of Parliament

By: **Baharuddin Mohd. Shah (Alumni Class 1986)**  
Edited by: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Bakri Haji Ishak (Alumni Class 2004); Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan (Alumni Class 2016)**

His welcoming speech during UPM International Alumni Seminar and Bridges-Link Alumni Centre UPM and Universitas Andalas, Padang, Sumatra on 16-21 November 2016 was spiced with humour, interesting anecdotes and regularly interjected with Malay 'pantuns' (poetic lyrics) which has become his trademark as a speaker. This did not belie the fact that, he is an extraordinary man with an extraordinary energy who is a hardworking politician, a prolific writer, an intense sports enthusiast, a well-known religious teacher, a popular lecturer, an efficient administrator, a music lover and at the same time a dedicated family man.

As a Governor of West Sumatra (2010-2021), he mentioned how the human resource knowledge he gained in UPM helped him in becoming an excellent administrator. He earned a Master's degree in Human Resource Development and PhD degree in

Training and Management from UPM between the years 1995 to 2000. Based on his training, he developed four main areas in his administration leadership which are as follows: selection and recruitment; mutation and rotation; placing and promotion and training and development. He has to administer a staff of 23,000 strong. He recognised that every individual is not the same and should be allotted his roles according to his abilities and personality. Thus, he developed a unique assessment system in analysing the selection and performance of his staff. He put forward also a system of rotation to develop his staff and also to discover their strengths and weaknesses in their jobs. He also established a training system where they are trained systematically.

As a Professor (2008 - now), which he obtained from Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta (UMJ), he paid tributes to the professors

and lecturers in UPM who had contributed in shaping him up to what he is today. He had a special mention of Professor Azemi who had trained him as an effective writer while doing his PhD in UPM. To date he has written 40 books, 350 articles and 8,800 'pantun'. He not only gave academic lectures but also religious talks, despite of not being trained in the religious areas. His training in UPM had guided him in training his students as excellent scholars, particularly in the areas of academic research of international repute. According to him anyone can succeed in whatever he is doing, provided he has a strong passion and interest on it.

He ventured into national politics between 1999-2010 and won three successive national elections as Member of Parliament. This culminated in his winning two terms, as Governor of West Sumatra : the first was for the period 2010-2015



and the second was for the period 2016-2021. As a politician he has to galvanise support from the various sections of society, such as farmers, fishermen, labourers, businessmen, intellectuals, professionals and government servants. He stated that without any doubt that his training in UPM which developed his ability to communicate and understand the various facets of human characters helped him immeasurably in undertaking his job as a politician. He was able to feel the pulse of his people and delivered their needs effectively.

His crowned achievement is that he has established and managed an Education Board which is called Adzkia in Padang, West Sumatra in 1988. This education entity is still active until today. It has



a Children Kindergarten (Taman Kanak-Kanak -TK), Primary School (Sekolah Dasar -SD), First Secondary School (Sekolah Menengah Pertama -SMP), Engineering Secondary School (Sekolah Menengah Kejuruteraan -SMK), and Higher Teacher Training (Perguruan Tinggi) . More than 5000 undergraduates and graduates are managed by Adzkia.

As a whole, Professor Dr. H. Irwan Prayitno believes in education that can elevate a person's standing in life. Being largely an academician and from an academic parents, he also instilled in his 10 children to be academicians. One might ask how did Professor Irwan manage his multitude of activities at the same time? His message was simple: Plan your work and work your plan. This discipline he acquired from UPM, which had propelled him to succeed in all his endeavours. Lastly, UPM had also provided him the spiritual light to comprehend and practise the teachings of Islam.



In a typical graduation ceremony at Malaysian universities, we noticed that the focus and highlights are normally given to academic-related achievements such as the awards of Honorary Doctorates, excellence in post-graduate programs and outstanding performances of selected individuals in their fields of studies. The presence of photographers snapping away with flashes may even blind the sights of the award recipients, but with smiles and happy faces, they parade on stage receiving their awards from the Chancellor of the university, with full of pride and dignity.



## Pingat Razlan Putra "Achieving Excellence in Sports & Academic"

By: YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail (Alumni Class 1972)  
Edited by: Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed (Alumni Class 1975)



These recipients are those who achieved CGPA between 3.8 and 4.0. They are *"the crème de la crème"*. These academic awards are not easy to achieve because they need discipline, hard work and perseverance.

However, we feel over the years of paper chase, we seem to forget that there are groups of students who have rendered "services" to the Nation and the university in other capacities but whose glories have not been given due recognition on that particular day of importance in their life.

One such group comprises the Sportsmen and Sportswomen. These "sportspersons" are students from various faculties of the university and disciplines of studies. They are outstanding in their respective sports and thus, have represented not only the university but also have done their "National Service".

Why did we mention the word akin to "National Service"? It's because these students, apart from training for the university's team, are also required to maintain their excellence in sports for the Nation. They have to be on the field regularly and committed themselves to extended training sessions just to peak at the right time for the national duty. This, at times means that the students have to forgo some classes, group discussions, practical trainings or research experiments, resulting in them skipping their semesters and graduating much later than the normal students. They gave their all. Simply said, a commitment to the nation and the university through personal sacrifices of the highest order and at the same time, without compromising excellence in their academic requirements.

It is because of the accomplishments of this special breed of students that the idea of Pingat Razlan Putra Award was mooted.



**for the very first time last year (2016), Pingat Razlan Putra was presented by the Royal Chancellor of UPM to the inaugural award winner, Mohd. Shaharudin bin Said on the first session of the first day of the 40th Convocation Ceremony alongside the other academic award winners.**

Pingat Razlan Putra is donated by an alumnus, YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Jamalullail and his family through Alumni Association (PAUPM). This medal is to be awarded annually to the most outstanding "Sportsperson" who represents both the University and the Nation which combines discipline and honour and sportsmanship and without abandoning the pursuit of academic excellence.

For the very first time last year (2016), Pingat Razlan Putra was presented by the Chancellor of UPM to the inaugural award winner, Mohd. Shaharudin bin Said during the UPM 40th Convocation Ceremony alongside the other academic award winners. He graduated with Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development, played rugby at international level, badminton

and football and academically, was in the Dean's List, twice.

Thus, Pingat Razlan Putra is aiming to showcase achievements by all-rounder individuals with special talents who uplift the name of the Alma Mater and bring glory to the nation. It is hoped that through this recognition and appreciation by their peers and UPM community, more students will be inspired to excel in their sporting fields and correspondingly achieve successes in academic endeavours.

The Award also reflects the total support of PAUPM towards the *alma mater*, hopefully that the recipients possesses the true alumni of UPM spirit, by giving back to society through the University (UPM) and/or through the Alumni Association (PAUPM), as and when the need arises.

# The Ultimate Success

**TUAN HAJI LAILI ISMAIL**

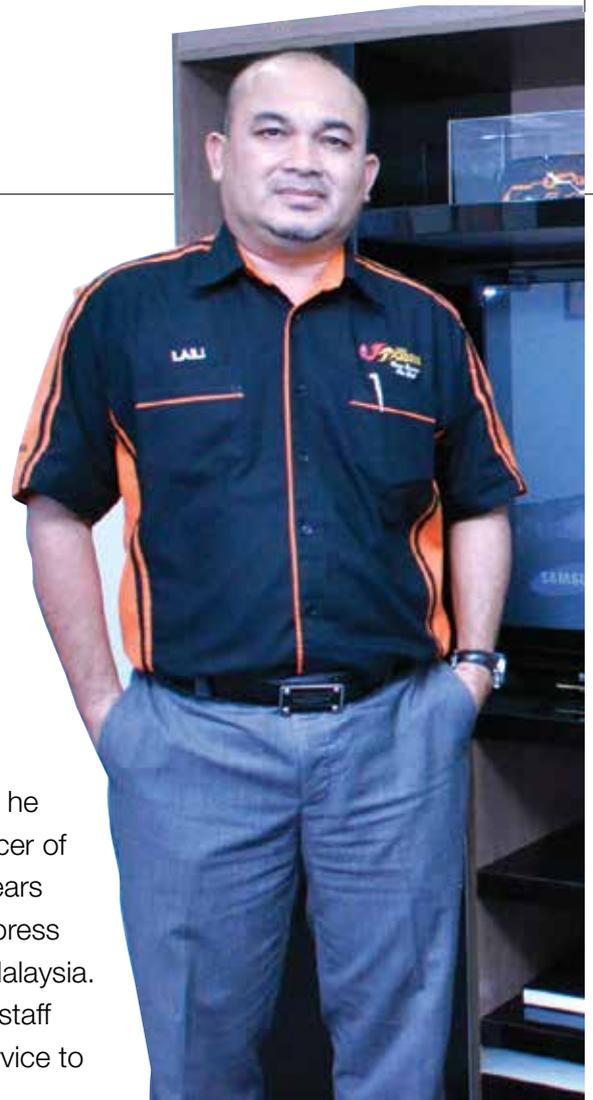
**Managing Director Tiara Pesona; CEO Ekspres Perdana**

(Alumni Class 1986)

By: **Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan (Alumni Class 2006)**

Edited by: **Datin. Dr. Kalthum Hashim (Alumni Class 1984)**

Possessing an educational background in agriculture, is not an obstacle for Tuan Haji Laili Ismail to start a career in a transportation field namely an express bus company. Now he is the Managing Director of Tiara Pesona and Chief Executive Officer of Ekspres Perdana. Ekspres Perdana began its operations seven years ago. In December 2016, it received the Best Operator for Bus Express Category Award by Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD), Malaysia. Obviously, this recognition gives a boost to the management and staff to remain efficient and competitive in order to provide the best service to users in the country.



Now, Ekspres Perdana has invested about RM60 million to buy 62 express buses within six years to strengthen the public transport operations that is provided by the company.

“Prior to work in this field, I was a contractor. I guess my prayers every night so I can do business in areas other than construction finally granted by God”, he said. Determined to

be serious in the land transport business, he and his wife, who was a teacher, willing to quit her work to focus entirely on this company.

No foundation, no experience or unskilled is no excuse for not trying. Fear of failure is usually the reason to avoid making changes in yourself. To Haji Laili, a person will fail if he refuses to change

and does not want to accept the current changes. Therefore he adds, Ekspres Perdana will make a difference by changing the logo and body design of the new bus in line with the latest technological developments. With the theme of “Bas Warna Warni, Plat Ribu-ribu”, he believes this change could attract the attention of users/consumers.

“ **Actually, we have introduced this programme recently. In addition to assistance to *asnaf*, single mothers and orphans, through the programme...**

When asked about the challenges in running this business, Haji Laili opined that, “Every business is bound to experience trials and tribulations. The biggest challenge in the express bus business is certainly to understand the attitudes and behaviour of bus drivers. “I need to implement good discipline as they are responsible for the lives of passengers on each travel. I need to ensure all drivers have a good track record in their work, diligent and not slacking off. Additionally, to futher motivate all drivers and staff under Ekspres Perdana, I value them with bonuses and rewards. I believe this is one form of appreciation to encourage employees to work with excellence”. He admitted feeling fortunate throughout operating Ekspres Perdana, he was supported by efficient, trustworthy and integrity administration and staff.

Philanthropic attitude and keenness of contributing to the community was not something foreign to Haji Laili. Ekspres Perdana empowers its



corporate social responsibility (CSR) through the “Cakna Masyarakat” programme to help those in needs. “Actually, we have introduced this programme recently. In addition to assistance to *asnaf*, single mothers and orphans, through the programme, the company has also allocated nearly RM20,000 aid missions for flood victims in Kelantan. We will continue this activity or

responsibility in accordance with existing capabilities,” he said.

“I hope to expand this business. I want to be an entrepreneur who really strive from the lowest level, through hardship to reach the accomplished level to inspire future generation. I hope to unceasingly contribute my devotion, kindness and expertise to the *alma mater*, UPM Insya Allah”.



# Diving Queen

**Cheong Jun Hoong**  
*Student Bachelor of Communication*

By: **Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan** (Alumni Class 2006)  
Edited by: **Baharudin Mohd Shah** (Alumni Class 1989)

**Cheong Jun Hoong** is a Malaysian diver. At the 2012 Summer Olympics, she competed in the Women's synchronised 3-metre springboard. She finished 3rd in both the Women's 3-metre springboard and the Women's synchronised 3 metre springboard at the 9th Asian Swimming Championships in 2012. Cheong won silver medal in the 10-metre synchronized diving event with Pandelega Rinong at the 2016 Rio Olympics, becoming the first pair of Malaysian women to win silver at the Olympics.



"I became involved in diving at the age of 9, representing the state of Perak in Malaysia Games (SUKMA) and began to represent the country when i was 13 years old. I am interested in all disciplines in the diving event and will do my best in every event I represent". When asked how she divided her time as an athlete and a student, she said it was not an easy thing to do since she had a lot of training abroad. When there was a big tournament, she had to defer her studies at UPM in order to meet the demands of an athlete. But deep in her heart, she wanted to finish her studies within the stipulated time graduate and be a UPM alumna.

**"I hope I am always given good health and a healthy body because diving is a sport that uses the whole body and hence is exposed to the risk of total injury."**

Cheong Jun Hoong always has a positive attitude in her life and will continue to illuminate the sports arena and she promised that every dive she made will have the eyes of the world on our nation.



Rio 2016





# Malaysian Olympic Shooter

**Jonathan Wong Guanjie**  
*Student Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering*

By: **Nik Hafzaini Nik Hassan (Alumni Class 2006)**  
Edited by: **Baharudin Mohd Shah (Alumni Class 1989)**

**J**onathan Wong Guanjie is a Malaysian shooter. He had made Malaysia proud by winning the silver medal in the Singapore SEA Games 2015 and brought further cheers to the national sports camp when he was eligible for the Rio Olympics in 2016, after championing the 10-metre air pistol event at a qualifying tournament. Starting for the fun of it, the young national shooting champion, Jonathan Wong Guanjie felt like it was a dream when he participated in the Rio Olympic Games 2016.

"I followed my sister to join the Melaka Shooting Association selection test in 2004 unplanned. When I started shooting and the shot went on target, I felt good. From then on, I made shooting as my focus sport.

"I enjoy shooting, because you do not fight others. You shoot on the runway (lane) and you are in control of the situation. At times you feel

tense when you have to control the match and that is when you have to challenge your mind and yourself which otherwise will make you lose your confidence. In shooting, good eyesight is very important. The eyes can become weary and tired after focusing on one territory, for say, 1.5 hours in a shooting event. The most vital things to have when shooting are focus and a solid mentality.



Jonathan hopes that he will successfully complete his studies in UPM. Aerospace engineering field is the main point of interest and option when registering as student of UPM. "When you have an objective, don't simply dream of the result only. But think of the challenges going towards that goal".



**“I enjoy shooting, because you do not fight others. You shoot on the runway (lane) and you are in control of the situation. At times you feel tense when you have to control the match and that is when you have to challenge your mind and yourself which otherwise will make you lose your confidence. In shooting, good eyesight is very important.**





# UPM experience: It's broadening my horizons!

By: Inn Seon Lee (Student Mobility Kangwon National University, Korea – Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Edited by: Lt. Cdr. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hasmadi Ismail RMNVR (Alumni Class 1996)

**my** name is Inn Seon. I was born in the countryside, Heongseong-gun and live with my grandmother, parents, and older brother. During my childhood I played, explored, and learned in a forest or natural environments. My parents encouraged me to see the wider world, so when I was in elementary school, I went to Chuncheon with my older brother. Chuncheon is a capital of Gangwon Province in South Korea.

In Chuncheon, I was raised by my grandmother. Since I was little, I had to decide many things for myself such as making study plan, managing money, and so on. Therefore, I had always tried to think for myself and learned a sense of responsibility for my choices. Through these my school years it had made me strong and mature.

My hobby is travelling and taking photos. Sometimes I like to travel alone, and enjoy keeping to myself. Also it can make a new friend in somewhere new. However, sometimes I love taking a trip with my friends or family. I enjoy making a plan to travel, and I like that feeling. I love to travel to other new places, eat their food, and feel their own atmosphere with my people I love. I think that the new experiences by travelling make my mind to open. Furthermore I prefer to take pictures. I just like to take pictures of moments

that I wish to remember. When I see that pictures, it feels like I'm there. Time passes away so soon, but photos always remain permanent.

Walking into new experience is not easily as I thought! Actually it scared me. However when I was in freshman year in Kangwon National University, Korea (KNU), I felt fortunate to have participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forest Summer programme. During this camp, I had lectures and discussions about my field with international students from different countries. I stayed with them for about one month, so I could feel about other cultures and we learned about forbearance. Through that experience, I enjoyed doing new things. After experiencing this camp, joining student mobility programme became my bucket list! Then I chose UPM for my mobility programme/exchange programme for session 2016/2017.

The days in UPM were days to be remembered all the time. I registered at the Faculty of Forestry and took four classes and with field visit/ trips. At the beginning I was very worried and uncertain of what to expect. Most of the trip was two nights and three days. It came too fast to me! So I was more worried about that because I am not familiar with hot and humid weather. But I could finish well through helps of other friends and lecturers. Through field trips, I could see the site and experienced the real tropical forest in Malaysia. Moreover, after the field trips, I was much stronger for it, both emotionally and in practicality like forester!. It helped me adjust to the various cultures in Malaysia.

My life in Malaysia was hard at the beginning. Here I have no other Korean friends, and I'm the only exchange student in my class. I was eager to do better in my

mobility programme. I wish to be a fast learning student and wanted to adapt to different culture, social, and environment perfectly. Many people helped me. Classmates and lecturers helped and comforted me. I want to be a tough person with a strong willpower. I want to have well-rounded mind for every challenge I face and every person I meet. I hope to be a warm-hearted person who can help people and animals in need. On the other hand, I will work hard to be a woman leader with inner strength. I want to be a powerful woman with tender smile. Finally I want to be wise like my mother. I will try my best to always make right decisions in my field of work and for my family. So for my hope, I will develop my abilities through having a variety of experiences.

A few sentences are not enough to describe the experiences of this mobility programme. I gained a lot of knowledge, met people from different cultures, ethnics and experiences with different teaching environment. In addition studying abroad has had an enormous impact on my personal development and has expanded my horizons. I had a really good time at the Universiti Putra Malaysia. For me it was really a fulfilling experience. I spent this semester at one of the best universities in Malaysia and Asia. It was great with people-friendly approach from the professors and fellow students. I am very satisfied with the programme. It has been one of the most unforgettable semesters abroad in my life.



# Pictorial 2016

## Highlights of Alumni Activities (July-December)

### 25 JULY 2016 • PAK RASHID LECTURE SERIES "PAK RASHID THE CHE'GU"

Alumni Centre of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has organised a lecture entitled "Pak Rashid the Che'gu" in recognition of the role of alumni in boosting the image of UPM as well as strengthening goodwill between them and their alma mater. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris said UPM is well aware of the fact that the excellent performance of a university will be stronger and more stable with active supports from alumni who are asset to the university.

The lecture was delivered by a board member of Pak Rashid Foundation Board of Trustees, Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohd Noor Ismail, a UPM Alumnus who graduated in 1955 and a protege of the late Pak Rashid.



### 27-29 JULY 2016 • TRACE PAHANG

Alumni Centre had successfully organised Tracing Alumni for Collaboration and Engagement (TRACE) programme in Pahang. The main objective of this programme was to meet UPM Alumni who are currently working in Pahang and to share UPM's recent development as well as to obtain feedback from them. ACUPM also provided the alumni with updated information on its activities.

Five organisations, namely, Agriculture Department, Forestry Department, Veterinary Department, Universiti Malaysia Pahang and MARDI took part in this programme. We are grateful for the support and appreciate the donation for UPM endowment fund.





9 AUGUST 2016

### • THE NATIONAL COCONUT WORKSHOP 2016

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture organised the National Coconut Workshop 2016. The event was officiated by YB. Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MOA). The objectives of the workshop, among others, were to share updates on the development of coconut industry in Malaysia, to assist the Government and related agencies in the implementation of policies to achieve further growth and expansion and to discuss strategies towards forming an interactive platform for the benefits of stake holders in Malaysia. MOA and its agencies such as the Malaysian Agriculture Research and

Development Institute (MARDI), the Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (FAMA) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) gave their full cooperation by becoming co-organisers as well as members of the Organising Committee, whilst LINACO Manufacturing Sdn Berhad agreed to be the main sponsor for the Workshop.

The one day programme brought in 13 display booths of various innovative products related to coconut or coconut oil from MOA, DOA, MARDI, FAMA, and private companies like LINACO Manufacturing Sdn Bhd, M & S Food Industries Sdn Bhd, Tropica Beauty, Nebula Horizon and several other organisations. An interesting demonstration on "kelapa bakar" (whole coconut heated over charcoal fire) which is quite popular in the northern states, was sponsored by FAMA. Coconut varieties such as MATAK, MAWA, and others were also put on display by MARDI. One hundred MATAK and 200 Pandan coconut seedlings were offered for sale as promotion by DOA. The participants and visitors were also shown the latest coconut peeling machine and coconut husk shredder by staff from DOA.

About 300 participants from government agencies such as the MOA, DOA, MARDI, FAMA and members of the Malaysian Plant Protection Society (MPPS) and Incorporated Society of Planters (ISP) as well as those from the coconut industry sectors attended the Workshop. Other participants include students from public and private Universities. In addition to the Workshop programme, poster presentation was also held at the lobby to attract visitors.



## Highlights



### 23 AUGUST 2016 • COURTESY VISIT TO ISTANA BUKIT KAYANGAN, SHAH ALAM

UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) organised a courtesy visit to the Selangor Royal Palace, Istana Bukit Kayangan, to meet DYMM Tuanku Canselor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj. The delegation of seven PAUPM Exco members, was led by its President, YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail. The meeting was to introduce the incumbent PAUPM Exco Members who were present, among other things, as well as to report and update the current activities carried out by PAUPM to DYMM Tuanku. DYMM Tuanku advised PAUPM to continue giving support, whatever it can, to the alma mater, in the latter's effort to achieve the position as the world's top 200 Universities. In addition, DYMM Tuanku would like to see PAUPM itself grow in prominence as the top Alumni Association in the country, if not in the region. It has to be financially stable as well as able to organise activities and programmes that would encourage participation from its members.



### 25-30 AUGUST 2016 • BRIDGES-LINK BORNEO

Alumni Centre UPM conducted a 5-day programme on Tracing Alumni for Collaboration and Engagement (TRACE) in Sabah. Such a programme typically leverages alumni networks to maintain long-lasting relationship, exchanges expertise and also delivers the message on the importance of alumni to support UPM's PUTRA GLOBAL 200 (PG 200) aspiration to be ranked in the top 200 of World Universities Ranking by the year 2020.

The delegation of ACUPM also visited RISDA, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Agriculture Department, Fishery Department, Lembaga Kemajuan Perhutanan Negeri Sabah, Forestry Department and Sabah Animal Medical Centre for Temu Mesra Alumni in order to strengthen its linkages with UPM alumni and share the alma mater's updates with them.





**27 AUGUST 2016 • ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

Alumni Centre in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (UPM Bintulu Campus) organised Alumni Mentorship Programme. The concept of the programme is a discussion-cum-interaction session between students and alumni (mentors) in an open atmosphere. The aim is to share the experience and expertise of the alumni on ideas, information and career opportunities.

The programme also exposed students to useful softskills such as interview tips, communication skills, self-confidence enhancement and nurture students to be pro-active in seeking additional knowledge.



**28 AUGUST 2016 • UPM AMBASSADOR**

Alumni Centre in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (UPM Bintulu Campus) organised UPM Ambassador Programme. The objective was to expose the students on the roles and responsibilities of an alumnus. This is to foster the spirit of love to the alma mater. With the theme “UPM Alumni Ambassador Worldwide”, this programme intended to instill awareness amongst students to be eager to give back to the alma mater after graduating.



**Hi-Tea & Town Hall Session:**  
**Features IKON ALUMNI UPM 2016**  
**"Bonding, Belonging & Giving Back"**

11 Oktober 2016 (Selasa) | 2.00 petang | L'Apprenti Cafe@Padang Golf, Universiti Putra Malaysia



**23 SEPTEMBER 2016 • HI-TEA & TOWN HALL SESSION**

Alumni Centre hosted Hi-tea and Town Hall Session for UPM Alumni Industry to celebrate and strengthen strategic networking between alumni-alma mater. The programme started at 2.30 p.m. with a welcoming speech by the Director of Alumni Centre, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Bakri Hj. Ishak. This was followed by a "Bonding, Belonging and Giving Back" forum delivered by three panelists; Mr. Mohd Hizal Mustafa, Managing Director, H&E Global Trading (Alumni Class 1997), Mr. Muhammad Nazri Lokman, CEO, Phytogold Sdn.Bhd (Alumni Class 2000) and Mr. Azerai Azmi, Lecturer, IPG Kampus Pendidikan Teknik (Alumni Class 2003) and the moderator was Mr. Fahmi Azar Mistar, Head of Corporate Communication Division, UPM (Alumni Class 1999).

The discussion covered a wide range of topics including the roles of alumni towards PG200, income generation and others of common interest to the audience. Various ideas were also exchanged for the betterment of the alumni. It was truly an enjoyable and memorable occasion to the 70 alumni who attended the session.



**7-9 OCTOBER 2016 • ROMSTAR-PAUPM 9-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2016**

Romstar Sdn Bhd and UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) signed of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 24 September 2016. The MOU signified Romstar Sdn Bhd as the main sponsor of the annual 9-a-Side Football Tournament for three years, from 2016 through 2018. This Inter-Residential College tournament, would be organised by PAUPM in collaboration with Pusat Sukan of UPM. For this year, it was held from 7th to 9th October 2016. Team from Kolej Tun Dr Ismail (KTDI) became the winner of The Romstar-PAUPM Challenge Trophy and the Cash Prize of RM3,000.00 when they beat Kolej Kesepuluh (K10) in the final. The cash prize winners of the 2016 Tournament were as follows:

- **Champion (RM3,000): Kolej Tun Dr. Ismail (K3)**
- **First Runner-Up (RM2,000): Kolej Kesepuluh (K10)**
- **Second Runner-Up (RM1,000): Kolej Keenam (K6)**





**5-11 NOVEMBER 2016 • TRACE IRAN**

An academic visit and TRACE programme were undertaken by ACUPM with Chancellery Office, SGS, International Office and UPM Holding. In collaboration with Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran a total of 12 institutions/organisations were visited in Iran. The delegation was led by Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim and Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris. The visit has been an enriching experience, which allowed interaction and learning from foreign higher institutions of learning. The key areas for collaboration include research projects between academia, joint degree programs, students and faculty exchanges and internships in Iran and vice versa. On 8 November 2016, 93 Alumni members attended a Reunion Dinner at the Ministry of Higher Education Iran Building. The UPM International Iran Alumni Chapter was also officially inaugurated thence.



**29 OCTOBER – 13 NOVEMBER 2016 • DISTRIBUTION OF ALUMNI GRADUATION PACKAGES**



As commonly practised, Alumni Centre opened an Alumni Counter in conjunction with UPM Convocation Ceremony 2016. Approximately 7000 graduates received their graduation packages. Congratulations to all graduates.

## Highlights

### 6-9 NOVEMBER 2016 • TRACE RIAU

A TRACE programme was held on the 6 - 9 November 2016 Riau, Indonesia. The delegation headed by the Director of Alumni Centre UPM (ACUPM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Bakri Hj Ishak visited two universities, namely, Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim dan Universitas Riau on 7th Nov. The next day, they visited Universitas Muhammadiyah Riau and held a dinner with the UPM Alumni Riau at Hotel Pangeran, Pekanbaru, Indonesia.



### 3 DECEMBER 2016 • FRSB ALUMNI OPEN DIALOGUE WITH PAUPM

A meeting between representatives of the UPM Alumni Association (PAUPM) and the Faculty of Design and Landscape Architecture UPM (FRSB) was held on 3rd Dec 2016. It was organised by the Alumni Club of Design and Landscape Architecture (KASEL) as a platform to exchange views and ideas in order to further expand the network and collaborative efforts among the UPM alumni in general. PAUPM was represented

by the President, YAM Dato Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail, the Secretary-General, Tuan Haji Ghazali Salamat and Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed. The programme started with a welcoming speech by the Dean of FRSB, Assoc. Prof. LAr. Dr. Osman Mohd Tahir. In addition, the meeting was also meant to announce the formation of one other FRSB alumni club, namely Archiputra Alumni (ARCAL) and

detailing activities that they would embark on in the near future.

There were slide presentation sessions by representatives of various departments namely, LAr. Dr. Roziya Ibrahim, Dr. Mohd Shahrudin Abd Manan and Encik Mohd Irwan. Their briefing included the various courses offered by the Faculty and the successes achieved by the students, both locally and internationally. In the subsequent dialogue, PAUPM President applauded the Faculty through its Alumni Clubs (KASEL and ARCAL) for their efforts to bring back the alumni members to participate in activities organised by the alma mater in general and PAUPM, in particular. He believed many more alumni members would be joining the activities in the future with the two Alumni Clubs joining hands to bring them back.



### 4-7 DECEMBER 2016 • TRACE MEDAN

A TRACE programme was held on 4 to 7 December 2016 in Medan, Indonesia. The delegation headed by the Deputy Director of Alumni Centre UPM (ACUPM), Lt. Cdr. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hasmadi Ismail. On December 4, a Reunion Dinner was held together with UPM Alumni in Medan. A total of 30 people were present during the dinner. On December 5th and 6th, the delegation visited three universities, namely, Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU), Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara (UISU), dan Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU).



### 6 DECEMBER 2016 • CORPORATE VISIT TO LEMBAGA PENDUDUK DAN PEMBANGUNAN KELUARGA NEGARA (LPPKN)



The objective of this visit was to provide exposure to students and alumni members on the roles and functions of LPPKN on population, family development and human reproduction through strengthening of family ties and promoting family well-being. The visit was led by PAUPM's President, YAM Dato' Seri DiRaja Syed Razlan Syed Putra Jamalullail and the group consisted of Exco members, Alumni members, staff of the PAUPM Secretariat and students from UPM. The visitors were greeted and welcomed by the Chairman of LPPKN, YBhg. Dato' Mariam Mas Yacob who is an alumna from



Class of 1972 and her staff members. She is one of the successful alumni that UPM had produced as well as an icon that we can be proud of. They were later ushered to the auditorium where YBhg. Dato' Dr. Siti Norliah Binti Ismail, Director General of LPPKN, gave the welcome speech followed by slide presentation on the functions, roles and activities of LPPKN. The group was also given the opportunity to visit the Nur Sejahtera Clinic and Mama Care Centre.

## Highlights



### 21-23 DECEMBER 2016 • **TRACE MELAKA**

Alumni Centre conducted its last TRACE programme for this year at the Universiti Teknikal Melaka and Department of Veterinary Services Melaka. The programme included activities such as sharing of the past and upcoming events, and also promoting My 1 Alumni 1 Ringgit (My1A1R) Campaign. The session concluded with a dialogue session between alumni and ACUPM where valuable feedback was gathered on the way forward to further strengthen the linkages between alumni and alma mater.



### 28 DECEMBER 2016 • CPD Talk **“BENEFITS OF VIRGIN COCONUT OIL”**

The 14th Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Talk entitled “Benefits of Virgin Coconut Oil” (VCO) was presented by YBhg. Dato’ Mohd Arif Othman (Alumni UPM Class of 1974). In his presentation, he elaborated on the benefits of VCO in human daily life. It is 100% organic and derived from coconut and not chemically processed. It is rich in good nutrients such as vitamin E and its consumption gives

rise to many health benefits. Among others, it helps in easy breathing and relieves constipation, increases body metabolism and body energy, regulates weight control and reduces the risk of heart attack. The programme was organised in conjunction with the 38th TTS-Last Kopeks Session (Teh Tarik Santai) a monthly get-together among the UPM alumni especially for those who graduated in the 1970’s.



## PLANTATION COLLOQUIUM SERIES 2016

Series I: "Soil Fertility and Nutrition for Optimum Oil Palm Productivity" (26 September 2016)

Series II: "Oil Palm Planting Materials and Nursery Management" (17 October 2016)

Series III: "Oil Palm Pests & Diseases and Control Management" (14 November 2016)

Series IV: "Yield Intensification in Oil Palm Planting" (5 December 2016)

Realising the needs of the oil palm industry, which is the backbone of the economy, the colloquium series provided great emphasis in the production of sustainable palm oil to ensure prosperity and a sustainable environment in the oil palm company. Each colloquium series was specially prepared for Management Officers, Farm Managers, Plant Engineers, Executives and entrepreneurs involved in oil palm planting and palm oil milling.

The training programme could also be used as a platform to exchange views and experiences on the management of oil palm plantations and palm oil mills as an effort to make the oil palm industry not only more profitable and sustainable but also an environment-friendly venture.



The entire colloquium series were conducted by YBhg. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajuddin, who is an expert in the field of research and management of oil palm plantation. In addition to the main facilitator, Dato' Mohd Hashim was also joined by specially invited speakers.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

1  
TRACE ZON  
TENGAH -  
SELANGOR  
& PERAK

13-17 FEBRUARY 2017

TEMU MESRA  
ALUMNI @  
KELANTAN

5-8 FEBRUARY 2017

TEMU MESRA  
ALUMNI @  
JOHOR

13-14 MARCH 2017

3



2  
TEMU MESRA  
ALUMNI@PERAK

20-22 MARCH 2017

TRACE  
KORPORAT I@  
FELDA DAN  
FELCRA

29 MARCH 2017

DISTINGUISHED  
UPM ALUMNI  
LECTURE  
SERIES: LIVING  
THE SERDANG  
STORY

31 MARCH 2017

4



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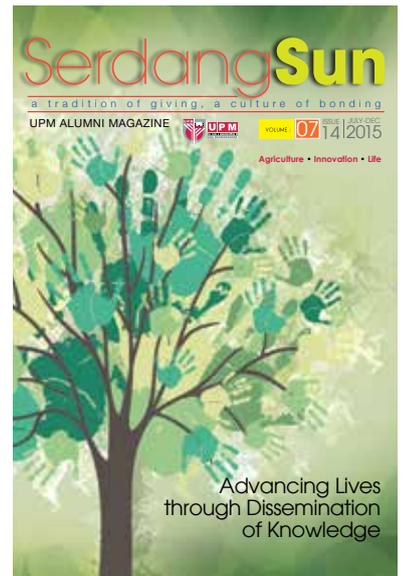
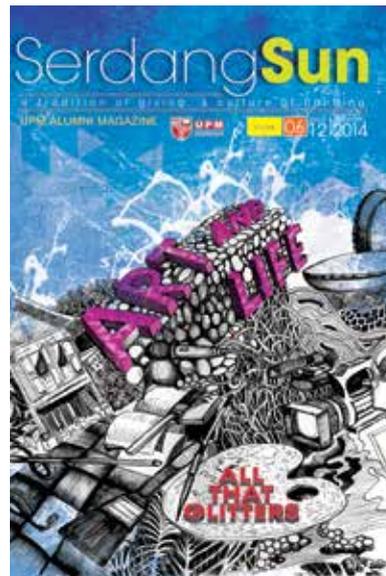
# Giving Back to UPM

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

For your information, all payment made will be channelled to the UPM Endowment Fund.

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## Contribute to Alma mater

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

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