MPOB News

MoU between MPOB and Dongwha GH

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) is collaborating with Dongwha GH International Sdn Bhd in the use of local oil palm biomass for the production of medium-density fibreboard (MDF) for commercial application. Dongwha GH is a subsidiary of the South Korean wood panel producer, Dongwha MH Holdings.

Both parties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect on 3 April 2009 at the MPOB Head Office.

Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General, represented MPOB and Dongwha was represented by its Director, Mr Lee Byeong Eon.

The collaboration between MPOB and Dongwha in this particular area will further enhance confidence in MPOB, and will eventually serve as an impetus for the industry to utilize oil palm biomass.

PAC Meeting

The 29th Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held from 6 to 10 April 2009 at the MPOB Head Office. The PAC is a committee, which was established by the MPOB Governing Board, to advise it on the research programmes that are to be conducted by MPOB.

This annual event enables the research activities of MPOB to be scrutinized to ensure that the projects are technically sound and are in line with the needs of the industry and the country. The PAC members have diverse expertise, knowledge, experience and background to help the Board in this regard.

Two new members were appointed during the recent PAC Meeting. They are as Dr Karlheinz Hill of Cognis GmbH, Germany and Dr Trevor Tomkins of Milk Specialities Global, USA.

During the meeting, Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, the Chairman of MPOB, also hosted a dinner for the PAC members, while on the final day, PAC members visited the Farm Mechanization Centre and Biomass Technology Centre at the MPOB/UKM Research Station in Bangi, Selangor.

Press Conference on Oil Palm Seed Scam Syndicate

MPOB exposed the unlawful sale of illegal oil palm seeds, and forged transaction documents bearing the logos of Sime Darby Plantation Bhd and FELDA Agriculture Services Sdn Bhd (FASSB).

Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General of MPOB, exposed the oil palm seed scam in a media conference on 24 April 2009 at the MPOB Head Office.

A syndicate had been cheating planters into buying low-yielding seeds. Such cheating cases have serious implications as they affect the livelihoods of thousands of smallholders and the country’s average oil palm yield.

Since May 2008, MPOB has conducted 24 raids and seized 6.13 million fake DXP seeds. This amounts to RM 11.35 million worth in opportunity loss for genuine crossbred seed producers. So far, eight cases have been brought to court.

Under the MPOB licensing rules, those found guilty are fined up to RM 200,000 or can be jailed up to three years, or both.

The media conference was also attended by Mr S Palaniappan, the Chief Executive of FASSB and Mr Khairudin Hashim, Head of Sime Darby Plantation’s Research and Development.

Visit by the New Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities to MPOB

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the new Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, and Dato’ Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister, visited MPOB Head Office on 7 May 2009.

Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, the Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General and senior officials of MPOB greeted the delegation on arrival.

A briefing on MPOB was given by the Director-General before the delegation proceeded to visit several research facilities in the MPOB complex, namely, the Margarine Pilot Plant, the Demonstration Kitchen and the Gallery.

Launching of Products in Conjunction with TOT Seminar 2009

In conjunction with the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar 2009, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched one new product, namely, NoveLin. NoveLin was developed with innovative features
like achieving cold stability and being suitable for the temperate countries market. The technology was commercialized by Ace Edible Oil Industries Sdn Bhd.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok also launched two publications entitled *Technologies for Oil Palm Harvesting, Evacuation and Loose Fruit Collection* and the *Journal of Oil Palm Research: Special Edition*.

During the event, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok also witnessed the signing of agreements between MPOB and three local companies to develop and commercialize palm-based products. The companies were I-NAI Venture Holdings Sdn Bhd, Emery Oleochemical (M) Sdn Bhd and Hur Far Engineering Sdn Bhd.

Finally, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok officially launched the MPOB Palm Biodiesel Integrated Pilot Plant in conjunction with the TOT Seminar 2009.

**Development of MPOB Research Station at Belaga**

The MPOB Research Station at Belaga, Sarawak, was officially launched by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on 21 July 2009.

The project that cost RM 10.5 million will be developed under the Ninth Malaysia Plan. It will focus on the development of a model of a sustainable plantation, providing for biodiversity research, and for the collection of data from an oil palm plantation on peat, as well as a seedling park.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Sri Dr James Jemut Masing, the Minister of Sarawak Land Development; Datuk Abit Joo, Ulu Rajang Member of Parliament; Liwang Lagang, State Assemblyman of Belaga; Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General MPOB and Dahim Nadot, Resident of Kapit Sarawak.

**MICCOS 2009**

Malaysia International Conference and Commodity Showcase (MICCOS) was organized by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities from 13-16 August 2009 and held at the Malaysia Agro-Exposition Parks, Serdang (MAEPS), Selangor. It was officially launched by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister.

MICCOS is a biennial event that brings together major industry players and entrepreneurs in the commodities sector, and is supported by the agencies and councils under the Ministry, including MPOB and MPOC.

With the theme, *Commodity is an Industry*, MICCOS 2009 showed a wide range of the latest products as well as technological developments and innovations in the Malaysian commodities sector that include palm oil, timber, rubber, cocoa, pepper, tobacco, kenaf and sago.

This exhibition featured the participation of major producers, manufacturers and exporters, as well as agencies responsible for the development and promotion of these commodities.

**MoU Signing – MPOB with Four Companies**

MPOB signed MoUs and agreements with four companies, namely, Global Green Synergy Sdn Bhd, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Ronser Bio-Tech Sdn Bhd and Berita Harian Sdn Bhd on 14 August 2009 at MAEPS, Serdang.

The MoU between MPOB and Global Green Synergy Sdn Bhd is on collaborative R&D for the *Commercial Production of Oil Palm-based Biomass Briquettes in a Palm Oil Mill*, while the MoU between MPOB and Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Ronser Bio-Tech Sdn Bhd is on a *Palm Oil Mill Effluent Zero Discharge Treatment System*.

At the same occasion, MPOB and Berita Harian Sdn Bhd signed an agreement on the renewal contract on *Berita Sawit*.

MPOB was represented by Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General, while Global Green Synergy Sdn Bhd was represented by its Director, Mr Joseph Lim; Prof Zhang Zhen Jia, Director of Environmental Science & Engineering Department, for Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Ms Woo Min Fong, Chairman of Ronser Bio-Tech Sdn Bhd, and finally Berita Harian Sdn Bhd was represented by Mr Mior Kamarul Shahid, the Group Chief Editor.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

**MPOB Presented a Scheme on the Integration of Livestock to Smallholders**

A total of 219 smallholders were presented with a scheme on the integration of livestock by Dato’ Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 18 August 2009 at Selama, Perak.
The Deputy Minister also presented cheques for the Oil Palm Replanting Scheme and 2nd Economic Stimulus Package (PRE2) to 15 receivers from the plantation companies and smallholders.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Dr Salmiah Ahmad, Deputy Director-General (Services) and Tuan Haji Idris Omar, Director of Integration Research and Extension Division, MPOB.

Launching of Services/Publications in Conjunction with PIPOC 2009

In conjunction with PIPOC 2009, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched the Palm E-tariff portal and Elaeis Genome Decoded.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok also launched three publications entitled MPOB Biomass Technology Centre, Biogas Utilization in Palm Oil Mills and Innovations in Palm Oil Milling Technology during his visit to the trade exhibition that was held in conjunction with PIPOC 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

PAC Seminar

More than 360 participants attended a half-day seminar at Dewan Bactris, MPOB Head Office, on 9 April 2009. The seminar was held in conjunction with the 29th PAC meeting.

The seminar was organized into five sessions, as follows:

- Session 1: Is GM the Way Forward? by Prof Denis J Murphy, University of Galmorgan, United Kingdom;
- Session 2: α-Tocopherol – A Suicidal Vitamin E Supplement; Tocotrienols – A Logical Future Research Target by Dr Gee Ping Tou, Palm Nutraceuticals Sdn Bhd, Malaysia;
- Session 3: Green Oleochemical Products: Recent Development and Consumer Acceptance by Dr Karlheinz Hill, Cognis GmbH, Germany;
- Session 4: Utilization of Palm Oil in Animal Feed – New Horizon by Dr Trevor Tomkins, Milk Specialities Global, USA; and
- Session 5: The Challenges Facing Palm Oil in the 21st Century by Dr James Fry, LMC International, United Kingdom.

The Seminar was held to disseminate and gain knowledge on the latest developments in the oil palm industry.

Transfer of Technology Seminar

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially launched the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar 2009 on 18 June 2009 at MPOB Head Office.

The TOT Seminar is organized annually by MPOB to ensure that the industry kept updated with the latest research findings that are available for adoption and commercialization. Adoption of new technologies will increase productivity, add value, generate wealth and contribute to the well-being of the oil palm industry in the country.

In the year 2008, MPOB had launched 412 technologies and products, and 56 services, while in 2009, 39 new technologies and products, and 16 services were launched, increasing the number of technologies and products to 451, and services to 72 so far.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Ms Nurmala Abd Rahim, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry; Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, the Chairman of MPOB and Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General of MPOB.

GSAS Seminar

A total of 150 participants attended the MPOB Graduate Students’ Assistantship Scheme (GSAS) Seminar at MPOB Head Office on 19 June 2009. Dr Salmiah Ahmad, the Deputy Director-General (Services), officially opened the seminar on behalf of the Director-General of MPOB.

The objectives of the seminar were: i) to emphasize on human capital development in order to enhance the nation’s capability to compete globally, ii) to strengthen national unity, and iii) to bring about a better distribution of income and wealth and a higher quality of life among the people.

So far, MPOB has sponsored 115 students under the scheme, and 59 of them have graduated, and are currently serving and contributing to the nation in various sectors of the oil palm industry.

COSTAM/SFRR International Workshop 2009

The COSTAM/SFRR International Workshop 2009 was jointly organized by MPOB, the Confederation of Scientific and Technological Associations (COSTAM) and the Society for Free Radical Research (SFRR). It was held from 9-12 July
2009 at the Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort & SPA in Pulau Langkawi.

His Royal Highness, Raja Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Mubibuddin Shah, the Regent of Perak, officiated the seminar.

More than 200 participants attended the seminar entitled Chemoprevention and Translational Research.

There was a keynote address by Prof Sten Orrenius from the Karolinska Institute, Sweden, entitled Mitochondrial Regulation of Cell Death. A total of 120 posters were also presented during the seminar.

**2009 International Conference on Oil Palm and the Environment**

Almost 350 participants took part in the 2009 International Conference on Oil Palm and the Environment from 14-15 August 2009. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched the conference at MAEPS, Selangor.

With the theme, Harmonizing Oil Palm with the Environment, the objectives of the conference were: i) to provide a platform for discussion on oil palm and its impact on the environment, and ii) to deliberate on issues such as global warming and climate change which have been hot topics, leading to a great deal of debate and controversy.

A total of 23 papers were presented during the two-day conference.

**Transfer of Technology Seminar, Sabah**

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially launched the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar in Sabah on 24 August 2009 at the Sabah Hotel, Sandakan.

The seminar was jointly organized by MPOB and the East Malaysia Planters’ Association (EMPA).

The objective of the seminar was to disseminate the latest research findings that were available for adoption and commercialization. Adoption of new technologies will increase productivity, add value, generate wealth and contribute to the well-being of the oil palm industry.

Also in attendance were Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, Deputy Director General (R&D) of MPOB.

**PIPOC 2009**

The International Palm Oil Congress (PIPOC 2009) organized by MPOB was held from 9-12 November 2009 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center (KLCC). Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officiated the congress.

More than 1800 participants attended the congress which bore the theme, Palm Oil: Balancing Ecologies with Economics. The congress consisted of five conferences, namely:

- Agriculture, Biotechnology and Sustainability Conference;
- Chemistry, Processing Technology & Bio-Energy Conference;
- Global Economics & Marketing Conference;
- Oleo & Specialty Chemicals Conference; and
- Food, Lifestyle & Health Conference.

Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik, the former Minister of Primary Industries, delivered a keynote address entitled Palm Oil and Energy: Managing Crisis in conjunction with the congress. A total of 137 papers and 171 posters were presented during PIPOC 2009.