Visit by the New Chairman to MPOB

The new Chairman of MPOB, Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, visited the MPOB Head Office on 20 May 2010. Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad was appointed the Chairman of MPOB effective 1 May 2010, succeeding Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, whose term ended on 30 April 2010. The then Director-General, Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, and senior officials of MPOB greeted the Chairman and his delegation on arrival. A briefing on MPOB was given by the Director-General.

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

Senator Dato’ G Palanivel, the new Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, visited the MPOB Head Office on 11 June 2010. The then Deputy Director-General (R&D), Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, and senior officials of MPOB greeted the Deputy Minister and his delegation on arrival. A briefing on MPOB was given by Datuk Dr Choo 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 2010

In conjunction with the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar 2010 which was held on 17 June 2010, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched two new products, namely, GanoSken Tomography Technology and Palm Biomass Briquettes. Collaboration between MPOB and Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) as well as Universite de La Rochelle, France, has resulted in the successful development of the GanoSken Tomography Technology, which is a system tool for the detection of Ganoderma infection in otherwise healthy looking oil palms. Similarly, MPOB’s collaboration with Global Green Synergy Sdn Bhd has led to the development of a process system and formulation for the commercial production of biomass briquettes from empty fruit bunches and shell.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok launched two publications as well, entitled Going for Liquid Gold- The Achievements of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board and Innovations in Oil Palm Mechanisation – Tools of Achievement.

During the event, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok also launched the Portal e-Benih Sawit, which will greatly benefit the seed producers, the nursery operators, as well as the smallholders and the estates, who are buyers of oil palm seedlings and germinated seeds.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok also witnessed the signing of an agreement between MPOB and Ancom Crop Care Sdn Bhd to develop a palm-based adjuvant for use in glyphosate isopropylamine and glyphosate monoammonium herbicide formulations. Another agreement was signed between Global Green Synergy Sdn Bhd and Kilang Minyak Sawit Tanjung Tualang Sdn Bhd for the commercial production of palm biomass briquettes using the technology jointly owned by MPOB and Global Green Synergy.

Finally, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok officially launched MPOB’s Open Day which was held from 18 to 19 June 2010, in conjunction with its 10th anniversary.

MPOB Open Day 2010

In conjunction with its 10th anniversary, MPOB held its Open Day from 18 to 19 June 2010 at the MPOB Head Office, Bangi. The objective of the programme was to give an opportunity to the members of the industry and the public to better understand the functions and mission of MPOB in enhancing the well-being of the Malaysian palm oil industry.

About 5000 people visited MPOB’s Open Day 2010 and took part in several activities such as the palm-based technologies & product invention and innovation competition for boarding and cluster schools students, a cooking demonstration and a batik colouring competition for the public, as well as a story-telling and colouring competition for primary school students. Other types of activities included blood donation, a health talk, celebrity reality shows, games related to oil palm products and Explore Sawit (a mini treasure hunt).

Launching of Cantas MK III

Dato’ Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched a new version of the oil palm motorized cutter, named Cantas MK III, at the Sabah Hotel in Sandakan, Sabah, on 29 June 2010.

Cantas MK III, which was developed by MPOB, is light, easy to operate and can also be used for
pruning and grass cutting. The product is manufactured and marketed by Fancy Power Sdn Bhd.

The launch was also attended by Hj Ahmad Sidek Stroo, MPOB’s Acting Deputy Director General (Services); Mr Aknan Ehtook, Under Secretary of Innovation Research and Industries, Human Capital Division of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, and Mr Kam Pau Siiong, Managing Director of Fancy Power Sdn Bhd.

Visit by the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities to Pusat Latihan Industri Sawit (PLASMA) and Palm Oil Industry Cluster (POIC)

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, visited MPOB’s Pusat Latihan Industri Sawit (PLASMA) and the Palm Oil Industry Cluster (POIC) in Lahad Datu, Sabah, from 26 to 27 July 2010. PLASMA, which was established by MPOB in 2006, is equipped with a hostel, conference hall and numerous facilities related to the palm oil industry. POIC was also established by MPOB with the hope to develop an industry cluster covering the upstream industry, and to set up the loading dock facilities in the harbour for palm products in Lahad Datu.

Certificate Presentation to Trainees of MPOB’s Farm Mechanization Operators Course

A certificate presentation ceremony was conducted for the trainees of Farm Mechanization Operators Course (KOML) on 5 August 2010. The ceremony was held at the Equatorial Hotel in Bangi, and was officially closed by Dato Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

A total of 60 trainees were awarded certificates during the ceremony. KOML was initiated by MPOB since 2006, and serves to introduce first level training with emphasis on mechanization in oil palm plantations. The second stage of training was introduced in March 2010 to further expose the trainees to the technical aspects of farm mechanization in the plantation sector. To date, a total of 261 trainees have successfully graduated from the course since its inception.

Visit by the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities to Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Kepala Batas Hospital

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, visited Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the Kepala Batas Hospital on 10 August 2010. The delegation was briefed by MPOB and USM research officers on the use of vitamin E extracted from palm oil for the treatment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). A study has shown that tocotrienol, which is a form of vitamin E, has vast potential for treating the disease.

Appointment of the New Director-General of MPOB

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board welcomes the appointment of Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May as the new Director-General with effect from 18 October 2010. Datuk Dr Choo succeeds Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, who retired on 17 October 2010.

Prior to her appointment, Datuk Dr Choo was the Deputy Director-General (Research and Development) of MPOB.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

Transfer of Technology Seminar

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially launched the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar 2010 on 17 June 2010 at the MPOB Head Office, Bangi.

The TOT Seminar is organized annually by MPOB to ensure that the industry is 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 2010, MPOB launched a total of 34 new technologies and products, and 20 services, increasing the number of technologies and products to 475, and services to 92 so far.

Also attending the event were Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, the Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, the Director-General of MPOB and Mr M Nagarajan, the Under Secretary of Vegetables Oils, Fats and Sago Industry Division, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Transfer of Technology Seminar for Small and Medium Industries

For the first time this year, in conjunction with the annual TOT Seminar, MPOB organized a seminar to cater especially to small and medium industries (SMI) on 17 June 2010 at the MPOB Head Office.
Office, Bangi. The objective of the Seminar was to provide business opportunities in exploring the commercialization of technologies related to the oil palm industry that require capital investments below RM 25 million. Among the new technologies, products and services offered to SMI for business ventures were food products, farm machines, feed meals, cosmetics and palm-based cleaning technology. More than 300 participants from the industry and local entrepreneurs attended the Seminar.

Graduate Students Assistantship Scheme (GSAS) Seminar 2010

The Seminar was held at the MPOB Head Office on 18 June 2010. This yearly seminar, in its fourth year, aims at disseminating research findings resulting from work carried out by GSAS students. GSAS offers post-graduates the opportunity to work with academics as well as MPOB researchers in projects relevant to the oil palm/palm oil industry. Nine papers outlining the findings of GSAS candidates who had completed their post-graduate studies successfully were presented at the seminar this year. Participants came from universities and research organizations including MPOB.

30th Palm Oil Familiarization Programme

The 30th Palm Oil Familiarization Programme (POFP) was held on 12 July 2010 at the Prince Hotel & Residence in Kuala Lumpur. The programme, officially launched by Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, the Chairman of the MPOB, attracted 39 participants from 24 countries.

Since its inception in 1982, this annual event is meant to expose the participants to the latest trends in the palm oil industry, recent research and development (R&D) projects, and the increasing expertise in technical production, processing, as well as upstream and downstream food products based on palm oil.

National Smallholders’ Conference 2010

The National Smallholders’ Conference organized by MPOB was held from 3 - 4 August 2010 in Miri, Sarawak. The objective of the Conference was to ensure that the smallholders adopt good agricultural practices (GAP), and also produced sustainable palm oil for the continued growth of the palm oil sector.

More than 500 participants attended the Conference which was officially opened by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Second Introductory Course on Trading and Marketing of Palm Oil

The course was held at the MPOB Head Office from 2-5 August 2010. This course was jointly organized by MPOB and PORAM with the objective of imparting to participants, trade and market knowledge and information on palm oil and the palm oil industry. The four-day programme comprised 18 lectures as well as visits to the MPOB Experimental Plantation, MPOB Biomass and Farm Mechanization Centre as well as MPOB R&D facilities. The course was structured to fill the needs of fresh graduates looking for a career in the palm oil industry, new employees in the industry and other service providers including palm oil brokers/traders, banks, insurance companies, surveyors and shipping brokers, etc.

Seminar on Enhancing Fractionation through Understanding of Chemical Potential for Crystallization

The Seminar was held at the MPOB Head Office on 9 August 2010. The one-day Seminar was held to share MPOB’s knowledge and experience on crystallization and fractionation of palm oil, and to inform participants of the latest development in the area of oil crystallization. The Seminar also presented an opportunity for discussion with stakeholders in order to identify R&D needs and priorities in the fractionation of palm oil and palm oil products. Five papers were presented by MPOB researchers in this Seminar which drew participants from the palm oil refining and fractionation sectors.

2010 National Seminar on Palm Oil Milling, Quality & Environment

The 2010 National Seminar on Palm Oil Milling, Quality & Environment (POMREQ) was organized by MPOB on 27 September 2010. The Seminar was targeted towards encouraging palm oil millers to adopt new technologies for increasing productivity and income.

The Seminar was officially launched by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. The Minister made a speech urging palm oil millers to acquire new technologies and methods, produce value-added products and meet the targeted objective of zero wastage. This is in line with the vision of the Ministry and MPOB to increase the performance of the whole production chain through sustainable practices and ensuring that the palm oil industry remains competitive. The Seminar also focused on waste treatment and man-
agement to make sure that palm wastes are properly supervised.

**Introductory Course on Oleochemicals (ICOC)**

The Course was held at the MPOB Head Office from 25-27 October 2010. This was the first time that the Introductory Course on Oleochemicals (ICOC) was held. The Course was designed to broaden the knowledge of stakeholders, entrepreneurs and students on topics related to oleochemicals. Basic and fundamental information on oleochemicals derived from palm and other vegetable and animal oils and fats was provided to the participants of the Course.

**Seminar on 3-MCPD Esters**

The Seminar was held at the MPOB Head Office on 4 November 2010. The half-day Seminar was organized to update participants on the latest information on 3-MCPD. Three papers were presented with the lead paper delivered by Prof Bertrand Matthaus from the Max Rubner-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Nutrition and Food, Detmold, Germany. This was followed by two papers by MPOB scientists on the analysis and toxicological aspects of the esters.

**Workshop on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat**

MPOB and SPOAA jointly organized a two-day workshop at the RH Hotel in Sibu, Sarawak, from 9-10 November 2010. This Workshop was conducted to prepare guidelines for the standard operating procedure (SOP) for oil palm cultivation on peat. The Workshop attracted 94 participants from companies and institutions which have an interest in oil palm cultivation on peat.

Six papers were presented on the first day by experts from various companies and institutions, including MPOB. Presentations were focused on the new and emerging issues related to oil palm development on peat, and recent technologies for best management practices (BMP) for peatland management in Malaysia, aimed at increasing productivity and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In a break-out session, the participants were divided into groups to discuss three main topics: land development, BMP for GHG mitigation, and BMP for crop production and sustainability. All inputs on BMP from the experts and practitioners discussed during the break-out session were presented on the second day of the Workshop. The inputs were to be used as guidelines for the companies to develop their own SOP for oil palm cultivation on peat.

**PalmMech Seminar 2010**

The 4th National Seminar on Oil Palm Mechanization (PalmMech) 2010 was successfully held from 22-23 November 2010 at the Crown Plaza Mutia in Kuala Lumpur. A total of 339 participants attended the seminar. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially opened the seminar. The Minister together with Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, Chairman of MPOB, witnessed the signing of MoUs between MPOB with two local companies, i.e. AAZ Bina Kejuruteraan & Pembekal Sdn Bhd for the manufacture and marketing of the motorcycle trailer and powered wheelbarrow, and MIZOU Holdings Sdn Bhd for the commercialization of the mechanical harvester and development of a small vehicle for peat areas.

Fifteen papers were deliberated upon in four sessions followed by a panel discussion for the participants to share information, learn new technologies, generate new ideas, formulate strategies, seek investment opportunities and incentive schemes, and adopt technologies for the sustainable development of the Malaysian oil palm industry.

In conjunction with the Seminar, an exhibition featuring the latest products and technologies related to the oil palm industry, especially farm machinery, was held with participation from 12 machine fabricators, product suppliers and service providers.