Launching of the B5 Programme for the Central Region – Selangor

The B5 programme in Malaysia is being implemented on a regional basis, starting with the Central Region which involves five states, i.e. Putrajaya, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, which has reached completion on 1 November 2011. The final launching for the Central Region at the Caltex Station in Taman Kinrara, Puchong, Selangor, was successfully completed by Datuk Hamzah Zainudin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

After its commencement in Putrajaya on 1 June 2011, the implementation of the programme proceeded in stages with that in Melaka activated on 1 July, followed by Negeri Sembilan on 1 August, and then Kuala Lumpur on 6 October. Implementation in Selangor involved 634 petrol stations.

To ensure the success of the programme, the government, through the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), has allocated a sum of RM 43.1 million to finance the development of in-line blending facilities at six petroleum depots in the Central Region.

B5 is a blend of 5% biodiesel and 95% diesel. Biodiesel is produced from palm oil. This alternative fuel was tested on government-owned vehicles during the initial trials before it was made available at the various petrol stations.

Anugerah Q 2011 (Quality Awards 2011)

On 18 January 2012 at its Head Office in Bangi, Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB, officially launched the presentation of the Quality Awards 2011. More than 200 MPOB staff received the awards for various categories during the event.

MPOB Annual Dinner

A project entitled Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Malaysian Palm Oil Products from Mineral Soils including Palm Biodiesel which was led by Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB, received the award Anugerah Enas Penyelidikan MPOB 2011 during the Annual Dinner and Award Presentation Night held in Putrajaya on 31 January 2012.

The project entitled Optimising Pilot-scale Feedbatch Production and Formulation of Indigenous Bt (MPOB Bt) for Biological Control of Bagworms and Nettle Caterpillars, was chosen as recipients for Anugerah Kecemerlangan Sains Piala Pusingan Ketua Pengarah 2011. For Anugerah Kecemerlangan Pengurus Piala Pusingan Ketua Pengarah 2009, the project entitled Orange Spotting – Coconut Cadang-cadang Viroid (OSCCVd) was chosen as the winner.

Fifty-six publications were chosen to receive awards for the best publications, while the paper entitled Novel Tocotrienol-entrapping Vesicles Can Eradicate Solid Tumours after Intravenous Administration by Dr Kalanithi Nesaretnam was chosen as the overall winner.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, presented the awards.

Launching of B5 for the Fisheries Sector, Central Region

On 20 February 2012, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched the B5 programme for the fisheries sector in the Central Region at Bagan Pasir Jetty in Tanjung Karang, Selangor.

The Minister gave his assurance that biodiesel B5 is safe for use in fishing boat engines. Indeed, the government has managed to convince the petroleum companies and engine manufacturers to give an engine warranty for B5 fuel usage.

The B5 programme is proof of the government’s commitment to the introduction of palm oil as an alternative fuel to reduce and thereafter replace the use of petroleum diesel. Introducing biodiesel is also the government’s strategy in strengthening or stabilising palm oil prices and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50%.

The Minister also said that the government wishes to implement the B5 programme nationwide by 2014 at the latest, after it had been carried out in stages in the Central Region last year. This had started with the land transport sector in Putrajaya, followed by implementation in Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.
MP0B Presented Oil Palm Replanting Scheme Cheques

A series of functions were organised by MP0B and the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) for presenting the Oil Palm Replanting Scheme Cheques to a total of 10,020 FELDA settlers. These functions took place from December 2011 to February 2012.

The incentive was paid to those settlers who had replanted their oil palms over the period from 1 January 2006 to 30 November 2008.

A total of 54 FELDA schemes involving 10,020 settlers (and 36,901 ha of replanted oil palm) received the incentive from the government.

Besides the Minister, Dato’ Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, the Minister of Information Communications and Culture; Dato’ Ahmad Shabery Cheek, the Minister of Youth and Sports; Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, the Minister of International Trade and Industry; Datuk Ismail Sabri Yakub, the Minister of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism; Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, the Chairman of MP0B; Tan Sri Isa Samad, the Chairman of FELDA and several Members of Parliament also attended the presentation of the cheques.

Launching of the Sustainable Palm Oil Co-operative, Keningau, Sabah

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, launched the Sustainable Palm Oil Co-operative in Keningau, Sabah, on 17 March 2012. Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MP0B, and Tuan Haji Idris Omar, the Director of Integration Research and Extension Division of MP0B, also attended the event.

This was the 16th co-operative launched by MP0B after similar co-operatives were launched in Tongod, Kunak, Tawau and Beluran in Sabah; Saratok, Belaga and Serian in Sarawak; Jasin in Melaka; Kluang and Kulaijaya in Johor; Kuala Selangor in Selangor; Temerloh and Bera in Pahang; and Selama in Perak.

The objective of the co-operatives is to group the independent oil palm smallholders in a cluster to facilitate efforts in increasing their productivity through the adoption of good agricultural practices, and at the same time in improving the quality of the fresh fruit bunches, which will then result in an increase in their income within the sustainability guidelines.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

MICCOS 2011

The Malaysia International Commodity Conference and Showcase or MICCOS is a biennial event that brings together major industry players and entrepreneurs in the commodities sector. MICCOS 2011 was launched by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park (MAEPS), in Serdang, Selangor.

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) organised MICCOS 2011 with the support of its agencies and councils, including MP0B and the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC).

With the theme Creating Wealth through Innovation, MICCOS 2011 showed a wide range of the latest products as well as technological developments and innovations in the Malaysian commodities sector that includes palm oil, timber, rubber, cocoa, pepper, tobacco, kenaf, jatropha 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. It was held from 28 to 30 October 2011.

International Conference on Oil Palm and the Environment

The 2011 International Conference on Oil Palm and the Environment was jointly organised by MP0B and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) from 27-28 October 2011. The Conference was officially launched by Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, at MAEPS, Serdang, Selangor. Almost 300 participants attended the Conference.

This Conference provided a forum for discussion on important issues, including oil palm and the environment. With the growing concerns over environmental issues associated with the oil palm industry, MP0B and UNIDO took the initiative of choosing an appropriate theme for this Conference, namely, Sustainable Palm Oil: Where Are We Now?

The objectives of this Conference were to highlight the latest on the sustainable development of the oil palm industry; to provide a platform for deliberation on the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, particularly the issues related to sustainability and the environment; to exchange
views on the future outlook and the way forward in the continuing efforts in enhancing the development of the industry in a sustainable manner; and to increase awareness in the sustainable practices of the oil palm industry.

Also present at the Conference were Datin Paduka Nurma Abd Rahim, the Secretary General of MPIC; Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB, and Mr Mpoko Bokanga, the Chief of the Agri-business Development Unit of UNIDO.

This Conference was organised as part of the activities held in conjunction with MICCOS 2011.

Technology Transfer Seminar for Small and Medium Enterprises/Industry

The annual Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar for Small and Medium Enterprises/Industry was organised by MPOB on 28 October 2011 at MAEPS in Serdang, Selangor. It was officially opened by Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB. The Seminar attracted more than 200 participants.

This Seminar is a strategic forum that serves to disseminate MPOB’s new research findings and its latest technologies, products and services that are suited to the small and medium enterprises/industry player for adoption and commercialisation by the industry and for business exploration. The new technologies, developed through research and development, are intended to contribute to the advancement of the palm oil industry.

The Seminar was organised by MPOB and also in conjunction with MICCOS 2011.

Third MPOB-IOPRI International Seminar

The Third MPOB-IOPRI International Seminar on Integrated Oil Palm Pest and Disease Management, jointly organised by MPOB and the Indonesian Oil Palm Research Institute (IOPRI), was held on 14 November 2011 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC).

The objective of the Seminar was to provide a forum for meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas and experiences amongst the participants on the detection and control of devastating oil palm diseases and pests, and their impact on the environment.

The Seminar was attended by more than 285 participants from various countries.

Also attending the Seminar were Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB and Dr Wijaksana Darmasarkoro, the Director of IOPRI.

PIPOC 2011

The International Palm Oil Congress (PIPOC) 2011 organised by MPOB was held from 15 – 17 November 2011 at KLCC. Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officiated the Congress.

PIPOC 2011, with the theme Palm Oil: Fortifying and Energising the World, was a strategic platform for interaction and in-depth deliberations on the current issues and developments, market trends, innovations, opportunities and challenges in the palm oil business. The beauty of PIPOC 2011 was that it catered to the many and diverse interests of the participants.

Five conferences were held concurrently:
• Global Economic and Marketing Conference;
• Agriculture, Biotechnology and Sustainability Conference;
• Chemistry, Processing Technology and Bio-Energy Conference;
• Oleo and Specialty Chemicals and Food Conference; and
• Lifestyle and Health Conference.

Tun Musa Hitam, the Chairman of Sime Darby Bhd, delivered the keynote address entitled Palm Oil: Fortifying and Energising the World.

Apart from the Congress, there were more than 200 booths set up by both local and international exhibitors at PIPOC 2011.

Prior to the Congress, technical tours were conducted to the MPOB Research Station in Kluang, Sime Darby’s Jomalina Food Industries Sdn Bhd refinery in Kuala Langat, Sime Darby’s biodiesel plant in Carey Island, Klang, Palm Oleo Sdn Bhd oleochemical plant in Rawang, and a visit to FELDA’s Besout Complex in Perak.

Palm Oil Economic Review and Outlook Seminar 2012

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, officially opened the Palm Oil Economic Review and Outlook Seminar 2012 on 19 January 2012 at the Renaissance Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

This annual Seminar is organised by MPOB to provide an avenue for discussion and the exchange
of views to further strengthen the role of palm oil in the global oils and fats industry, particularly to maximize opportunities in palm oil trade.

This Seminar also updated the industry players on the latest happenings, especially on the Malaysian palm oil industry performance; the creation of better market access opportunities through active involvement in the concluded and on-going Free Trade Area Negotiations, both bilaterally and regionally; the enhancement of export competitiveness; as well as addressing the impact of world economic uncertainty on palm oil trade.

Others attending the Seminar included Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, the Chairman of MPOB; Datin Paduka Nurmala Abd Rahim, the Secretary General of MPIC, and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB.

Farm Mechanisation Operators’ Course

A total of 120 candidates participated in the 11th Farm Mechanisation Operators’ Course, which was conducted from September 2011 until February 2012. Encik Mohd Sanuri Shahid, the Deputy Secretary General of MPIC, presented the certificates to those who completed the course successfully on 14 February 2020 at a function in Pusat Latihan Sawit Malaysia (PLASMA), MPOB Keratong, Pahang.

Two participants, namely, Mohd Izat Mahadi for Level 1 and Mohd Zahirul Sufi Razali for Level 2, were chosen as the best participants, also received their awards during the function.

Also in attendance was Tuan Haji Ahmad Sidek Stroo, the Deputy Director-General (Services) of MPOB.

Soap and Candle Workshop

MPIC and MPOB jointly organised a workshop to instruct participants on how to produce palm-based soaps and candles on 18 February 2012 at the Pusat Cemerlang P. 174 Penampang, Penampang, Sabah.

A total of 53 local folk including housewives, single mothers, government servants and students attended the half-day Soap and Candle Workshop. The Workshop was organised to provide basic knowledge on the production of the palm-based soaps and candles.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities presented certificates to the participants to mark the successful completion of the Workshop. Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB, and Puan Sri Diana Dompok, the Minister’s wife, also attended the closing ceremony.

Technology Transfer Seminar for Small and Medium Enterprises/Industry in Sabah

For the first time, the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar for Small and Medium Enterprises/Industry was organised by MPOB on 27 February 2012 at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The Seminar was officially opened by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. Also in attendance were Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB, and Mr M Nagarajan, the Deputy Secretary General (Commodity) of MPIC. More than 700 participants attended the one-day Seminar.

The Seminar was specially tailored to cater for the small and medium enterprises/industry (SME). The aim was to provide a platform for enhancing their business opportunities in exploring commercialisation technologies related to the oil palm industry that require a capital investment below RM 25 million.

Among the new technologies, products and services offered to SME as possible business ventures were food products, farm mechanisation, feed meal, cosmetics and palm-based cleaning technology.

During the opening, the Minister also presented certificates to 28 participants of the Intensive Diploma Course in Oil Palm Management, and witnessed the signing of an agreement between MPOB and Utusan Borneo for the publication of Utusan Sawit.

PAC Meeting 2012

The 32nd Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held from 2 to 6 April 2012 at the MPOB Head Office. This annual event enables the research activities of MPOB to be examined by an external body comprising professionals who are experts in their respective fields, to ensure that the projects are technically sound and are in line with the needs of the industry and of the country.

During the PAC meeting, Dato’ Seri Utama Shahrir Abdul Samad, the Chairman of MPOB, also hosted a dinner in honour of the PAC members.
More than 600 participants attended a half-day PAC Seminar held in conjunction with the 32nd PAC meeting at Dewan Bactris, MPOB Head Office, on 6 April 2012.

The Seminar was held in six sessions:

Session 1: **Vascular Wilt Disease: Potential Threat to the Oil Palm Industry in Southeast Asia** by Prof Dr Richard M Cooper, University of Bath, United Kingdom;

Session 2: **Latest Developments in Technologies on Biomass Utilisation** by Prof Dr Ing Volker Thole, Fraunhofer-Institut fur Holzforschung, Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut (WKI), Germany;

Session 3: **One Spot Pegylation of Fatty Acids for Biomedical Applications** by Prof Dr Chong-Su Cho, Seoul National University, South Korea;

Session 4: **Palm Specialty Fats and Progressive Value-addition** by Henry Loh Moong Ming, Oilwise Consultancy and Services, Malaysia;

Session 5: **FELDA Listing at BURSA: A Strategic Way Forward to Champion the Oils and Fats Market** by Dato’ Sabri Ahmad, FELDA Global Ventures Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia; and

Session 6: **Indonesia Tax Regimes: Strategies for the Malaysian Palm Oil Industry in Balancing Tax Inequality** by Dr James Fry, LMC International Ltd, United Kingdom.

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