

MPOB News

B5 Launch, Southern Region, Johor

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities launched the rollout of the B5 for the Southern Region in Pasir Gudang, on 22 July 2013. Among those who graced the occasion included Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Tan Sri Yusof Basiron, Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council; and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, Director-General of MPOB.

The B5 rollout in Johor involves 415 service stations and 37 270 t of palm oil biodiesel, which will be used in a year. In his speech, the Minister said that this would contribute to a saving of 43.14 million litres of fossil diesel per year.

B5 has been launched in the Central Region since June 2011, and has covered Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Putrajaya, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. With Johor on the list, it is estimated that 15 000 t of biodiesel would be needed per year, to implement the B5 programme for all six states.

Palm Oil Familiarisation Programme

The Palm Oil Familiarisation Programme (POFP) 2013 was held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel from 31 August to 8 September 2013 and was officiated by Datuk Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. POFP is a programme jointly organised by MPOB, various government agencies, universities and palm oil industry players. Thirty-four international participants from 17 countries took part in the programme. Twenty-three participants were fully-sponsored by the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while MPOB provided full financial assistance to six participants from the US, Canada, Peru, China and Europe.

POFP aims at familiarising and exposing participants to the whole spectrum of the palm oil industry in Malaysia, to:

- be a platform, where information on palm oil is shared with importing countries;
- update participants on the current state of development and progress of all major sectors in the industry; research and development in biology, chemistry and technological fields;

- present latest technical information on present and future production, processing, properties, end-uses and handling procedures of palm and palm kernel oils, and their products; and
- highlight the commercial aspects of the marketing and trading of palm oil.

POFP has so far attracted 1095 participants from 100 countries, since its debut in 1982. The programme will continue to be a platform where information on palm oil is shared with importing countries. It has been recognised by many as a premier palm oil programme.

Minister's Visit to MPOB's Sessang Research Station

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities visited MPOB's Sessang Research Station and was welcomed by Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB.

The Sessang Research Station in Saratok, was established in 1991 to facilitate research and upstream development on peat soil in Sarawak. It also serves as a centre for the dissemination of pertinent information for smallholders. Research covers the areas of breeding and genetics, agronomy and fertiliser technology, pest and disease control and farm machinery for oil palm growers on peat.

CANTAS and a track type machine, known as *Beluga* were demonstrated during the visit by the Minister. *Beluga* was developed in collaboration with Mizou Holdings Sdn Bhd and has been widely accepted by the plantations in peat soil areas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

Transfer of Technology Seminar 2013

MPOB organised an annual event which is the Transfer of Technology Seminar (TOT). The TOT Seminar is a strategic platform for MPOB to launch new technologies, products and services in all aspects of palm oil, for adoption and commercialisation by the industry and entrepreneurs. It provides a platform for industry players, entrepreneurs and plantation owners, to interact and communicate ideas, on the commercialisation of technologies with MPOB inventors and scientists.

The Seminar was launched by Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 20 June 2013. The Seminar introduced 16 new technologies and 10 services. It is in this context that MPOB's three-pronged research and development (R&D) strategies were discussed. These are anchored on high income and productivity, zero waste and value addition and are in line with industry requirements. This will therefore generate sustainable growth and high income; and empower the industry to achieve its targets set under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

To date, 543 technologies and 150 services related to technology in the palm oil industry have been developed by MPOB. Of these, 30% have been successfully commercialised.

In its continuing effort to sustain growth and remain competitive in the industry, MPOB has been successful in sequencing both species of oil palm - *Dura* and *Pisifera*.

Malaysia International Commodity Conference and Showcase (MICCOS)

The Malaysia International Commodity Conference and Showcase (MICCOS) was launched by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, on 24 October 2013. It took place at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park in Serdang, Selangor. The biannual event organised by the country's primary industries brought together the major commodity players consisting of smallholders, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, exporters, as well as related agencies and organisations that are responsible for the development of the commodity sector in Malaysia.

In his opening speech, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas said that a new global standard for its palm oil was being drawn up to ensure quality was maintained and to address concerns of the non-government organisations (NGO) regarding the industry. They were in the final stages of drawing up the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification, to improve standards and the image of locally produced palm oil products. This move is in line with Malaysia's leading global role as a palm oil producer.

The Malaysian Standard on Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil will allow a better market access for Malaysian palm oil products, as it promotes sustainability and:

- takes into account local laws and regulations, including state enactments on environment and wildlife;
- protects the interest of smallholders; and
- promotes best agriculture practices and address the impact of the industry on the indigenous, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and wildlife.

The four-day MICCOS 2013 attracted more than 30 000 visitors.

International Palm Oil Congress 2013 (PIPOC)

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Deputy Prime Minister, officiated the opening of the International Palm Oil Congress 2013 (PIPOC) on 19 November 2013. Also present at the event were Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Datuk Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Datin Paduka Nurmala Abdul Rahim, the Secretary-General, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Dato' Ar Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, Director-General of MPOB.

PIPOC 2013 was hosted by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and was attended by the global oils and fats fraternity. The event, which is a premier biennial event was held from 19 to 21 November 2013, at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

'Green Opportunities from the Golden Crop' was chosen as the theme for PIPOC 2013. It featured industry experts who presented papers and shared their views at five concurrent sessions. These covered upstream, midstream, downstream, economics and marketing aspects of the industry.

Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May in her plenary presentation said that MPOB's genome research breakthrough and the discovery of its practical application, the Sure Sawit Shell Kit, enables oil palm growers to identify their shell type with 100% accuracy.