MPOB organised the first Transformasi dan Pengembangan Pekebun Kecil Sawit Sarawak Programme at the Hotel Sri Simanggang, Sri Aman, Sarawak on 23 May 2015. The Programme, which was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, had attracted more than 500 oil palm smallholders. The Programme also highlighted the various aspects of oil palm industry as well as the available support services extended by agencies under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

MPOB Bagged 34 Medals at ITEX 2015

MPOB brought home 17 gold medals, 14 silver medals, one bronze medal and two special awards at the 26th International Invention, Innovation Technology Exhibition (ITEX 2015). The Exhibition, which was held from 21 - 23 May 2015 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, was organised by the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MIDS). Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB also received the International Federation of Inventors’ Association (IFIA) Medal for Best Woman Inventor Award. Additionally, MPOB won gold award for the best booth design.

Visit from China Centre for International Economic Exchange

MPOB received a visit from a Chinese delegation led by His Excellency Zeng Peiyan, President of China Centre for International Economic Exchange on 11 June 2015. The delegates were received by Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, MPOB’s Director-General, who also briefed them on the development in the oil palm industry in Malaysia and the activities of MPOB, especially on palm oil economic exchange and growth with China.

Dialogue with MOH and MPIC

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities met with Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam, the Minister of Health, at the MPOB Head Office in Bangi on 24 August 2015 for a dialogue session. The dialogue session aimed to promote the benefits of palm oil, especially for health. Also present at the session were Dato’ Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Datuk Dr Chen Chaw Min, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health; Datuk M. Nagarajan, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC); Zainal Azman Abu Seman, Deputy Secretary-General, Strategic Planning and Management, MPIC; and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB.

Balau Carnival 2015

MPOB participated in the Balau Carnival 2015, held at Tebingan Sungai Dalat, Pekan Dalat, Mukah, Sarawak on 4 September 2015. The Carnival was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities. Also present at the event was Datuk Hajjah Fatimah Abdullah, the Minister of Welfare, Women and Family Development, Sarawak. With the theme, Sago Root with Culture Filling, the Carnival provided an avenue for the people of Dalat to celebrate their unity and strength with an array of activities and also provided a platform to exhibit the local culture.

Palm Oil Familiarisation Programme (POFP)

MPOB organised the Palm Oil Familiarisation Programme (POFP) in Hilton KL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur from 6 - 12 September 2015. The Programme was officiated by Dato’ Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, MPOB’s Chairman. POFP, an annual event, was organised by MPOB with the cooperation of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Programme aimed to familiarise the participants with the whole spectrum of the palm oil industry in Malaysia, covering current development and progress in all the major sectors of the industry, including research and development, latest applications of palm and palm kernel oils and their downstream products and commercial aspects of palm oil trade. Additionally, POFP provided a forum for participants to interact and share experiences, discuss current developments, explore new opportunities and develop global networking in the global oils and fats industry, particularly palm oil industry.

POFP has so far attracted 1163 participants from 100 countries, since it 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.
Hello Komoditi in Betong, Sarawak

MPOB participated in the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities’ Hello Komoditi programme in Betong, Sarawak on 10 October 2015. The event was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities. More than 3000 people visited the event where exhibition, demonstration and sale of commodity products were being held. Other agencies under the Ministry of Plantations and Commodities were the Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, National Tobacco and Kenaf Board, and the Institute of Malaysian Plantations and Commodities.

Launching of Bio-CNG Plant

MPOB, Felda and Sime Darby Offshore Engineering launched the Bio-CNG Plant located at the Felda Sungai Tengi, Perak on 28 October 2015. The Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (Bio-CNG) Plant is a joint project of MPOB, Felda Palm Industries Sdn Bhd (FPISB) and Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd (SDOE). This collaboration project is carried out under the Palm Oil’s National Key Economic Areas (NKEA), Entry Point Project (EPP 5). Under the EPP 5, the government targeted all the 442 palm oil mills in the country to install biogas capture facilities by 2020.

Three documents were exchanged during the event. They were the memorandum of agreement (MoA) between MPOB, FPISB and SDOE on the Joint Development of the Bio-CNG Plant, Sale and Purchase Agreement of the Bio-CNG between FPISB and SD-GM JVCo on the marketing of the Bio-CNG and the Sale and Purchase Agreement between SD-GM JVCo and OMI Alloy (M) Sdn Bhd on supplying the Bio-CNG to end consumers.

The ceremony was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities. Also present at the ceremony were Dato’ Ar. Wan Mohamad Khairil Anuar Wan Ahmad, MPOB’s Chairman; Tan Sri Datuk Sri Utama Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, Felda’s Chairman; Datuk Himmat Singh, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Mohd Bakke Salleh, President of the Sime Darby Berhad and Chief Executive Officer; Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB; Datuk Hanapi Suhada, Felda’s Director-General; and Dato’ Mohd Emir Mavani Abdullah, Felda Global Ventures Holding Berhad Group’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar 2015

MPOB organised the Transfer of Technology (TOT) Seminar on 9 June 2015 at the MPOB Head Office in Bangi. The Seminar, which was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, aimed to provide a platform for interaction between MPOB researchers and industry players. 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.

This Seminar had successfully gathered entrepreneurs, small and medium scale enterprises (SME), planters, agriculturists, engineering professionals, R&D personnel/scientists, food technologists, chemists and manufacturers through sharing of knowledge and experience on commercialisation in oil palm industry.

International Seminar on Gearing Oil Palm Breeding and Agronomy for Climate Change

MPOB and the International Society of Oil Palm Breeders and International Society for Oil Palm Agronomists organised the International Seminar on Gearing Oil Palm Breeding and Agronomy for Climate Change at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The one-day Seminar was officiated by Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB on 5 October 2015. The Seminar aimed to review the influence of climate change on the oil palm industry, to address oil palm sustainability issues through planting materials and agronomic practices, to recognise impact of climate change on oil palm growth and yield and to strategise R&D in breeding and agronomy for climate change.

Amongst the participants who attended the Seminar were breeders, tissue culturists, biotechnologists, agronomists, entomologists, plant pathologists, plant physiologists, seed producers, policy makers, planters, managers, researchers, academia, consultants, students and those interested in oil palm productivity and climate change.

PIPOC 2015

MPOB organised the International Palm Oil Congress and Exhibition (PIPOC) 2015 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 6 – 8 October 2015. It was officiated by Datuk Amar
Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities. Also present at the event were Datuk Himmat Singh, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Dato’ Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Annuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, the Director-General of MPOB.

With the theme, *Oil Palm: Powering the World, Sustaining the Future*, PIPOC 2015 provided a strategic platform for interaction and in-depth deliberation of the many facets of the oil palm and the palm oil industry from innovations, latest development, challenges and the future of the oil palm industry.

The Congress featured five concurrent conferences covering upstream, midstream, downstream, economics and marketing. PIPOC 2015 attracted more than 2000 participants from 61 countries, representing numerous segments of the global oils and fats trades. Additionally, some 5000 visitors toured the PIPOC 2015 exhibition area.