

## MPOB News

### Launching of BioCNG Plant

The official launching of the world first commercial BioCNG Plant from palm oil mill effluent (POME) biogas was held at the BioCNG Plant located at Sg. Tenggi, Kuala Kubu Bahru on 28 October 2015. It was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Also present at the event were Dato' Noriah Kasnon, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities; Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, Chairman of Felda Group; Dato' Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB; Dato' Mohd Emir Mavani, Managing Director of Felda Holdings Berhad Group; and Datuk Abdul Halim Hamid, Executive Vice-President of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Berhad.

This first of its kind, commercial BioCNG Plant in Malaysia is a result of a strategic venture between MPOB, Felda Industries Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of FGV) and Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd (SDOE).

The venture is an initiative under the National Key Economic Area (NKEA) which encourages palm oil mills all over the country to have such facilities to capture the biogas released from the milling operations.

More BioCNG plants are anticipated to be constructed and commissioned in Malaysia through strategic ventures between MPOB, Felda and SDOE.

### Establishment of Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC)

Malaysia and Indonesia signed the charter for the establishment of the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) on 21 November 2015. At the signing ceremony, Malaysia was represented by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, while Indonesia by Rizal Ramli, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Resources.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Joko Widodo, the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

The CPOPC safeguards the welfare of oil

palm smallholders. It also undertakes efforts to promote the image of palm oil, price stabilisation, improvement of cooperation between top producers, and coordination of production, stocks, biodiesel mandates and re-planting schemes.

The membership of the Council is extended to all oil palm cultivating countries including Brazil, Colombia, Thailand, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Uganda.

### MPOB Award Presentation 2015

The 2015 MPOB Award Presentation Ceremony was held at the Marriott Hotel, Putrajaya on 10 December 2015 and was officiated by Datuk M. Nagarajan, MPIC Deputy Secretary-General (Commodities) who was representing Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of MPIC.

The ceremony was an event organised by MPOB annually in conjunction with the MPOB Annual Dinner. The event was held to celebrate and give recognition to the excellence of researches and technologies commercialisation developed by MPOB researchers.

Two groups were awarded the Gold Research Award Medal and they were presented by the Deputy Secretary-General. The two projects are 'A Holistic Approach to Cloning Oil Palm' led by Dr. Meilina Ong Abdullah and 'Commercialisation of Biodiesel Technology Implementation of B5/ B7 Programme in the Transportation Sector' led by Dr. Harrison Lau Lik Nang.

The other six awards presented that night were Potential Researchers, Excellent Researchers Director-General Special Award Best Publications, Excellent R&D, and Excellent Service.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

#### Palm Oil Economic Review and Outlook Seminar 2016

MPOB's Palm Oil Economic Review and Outlook Seminar (PALMEROS) 2016 was officiated by Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities on 19 January 2016 at The Royale Chulan, Kuala Lumpur. Also present at the event were Datuk Dr Sundaran

Annamalai, MPIC Secretary-General; Dato' Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB and Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May, Director-General of MPOB.

PALMEROS 2016 was held under the theme 'Palm Oil: Maximising Opportunities During Challenging Times'. It was attended by the industry players and it deliberated on various issues and challenges of the oil palm industry as well as the global oils and fats trade.

Among the prominent speakers at the seminar were Moriazi Mohamad, Vice-President of Bursa Malaysia Commodity Derivatives Product and Market Development; Dr. Mohamad Fadhil Hassan, Executive Director of Indonesia Palm Oil Association; and Thomas Mielke, Executive Director of ISTA Mielke GmbH- Oil World.

An exhibition was also held in conjunction with the PALMEROS 2016 to showcase the technology and services offered by MPOB to the industry.

#### **Manpower in Plantations Sector Seminar 2016**

Malaysian Palm Oil Board organised the Manpower in Plantation Sector Seminar to discuss on the labour issues and concerns of the plantation sector, particularly oil palm.

The seminar was held at the MPOB Head

Quarters Bandar Baru Bangi on 22 February and was officiated by Dato' Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB.

More than 200 participants from private companies and plantation agencies participated in the seminar.

Also present at the seminar was Encik Mohamad Mahil Ahmad, MPIC Undersecretary of Innovation Promotion and Industrial Human Capital Division.

#### **PAC Seminar**

The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) Seminar was held at MPOB Head Quarters on 14 April 2016 and was officiated by Dato' Ar. Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB.

The seminar was attended by industry players; members of oil palm associations, manufacturers, traders, and business development experts.

The PAC meets every year to review and evaluate the R&D programmes and projects carried out by MPOB. Six papers were presented by eminent members of the PAC during the seminar.