

MPOB News

MOU on Biodiesel Plant

Three companies - Rubiatec Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of Golden Hope Plantations Bhd), Kumpulan Fima Bhd and Carotino Sdn Bhd signed agreements with MPOB on joint-venture plants in Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), witnessed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak, Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister, Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui and Chairman of Golden Hope, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid on 12 December 2005.

The biodiesel plants – two in Klang and one in Pasir Gudang, Johor - estimated to cost about RM 40 million each have a combined production capacity of 60 000 t per year each, mainly for export.

Agreement on Biodiesel Technology

MPOB and the Korea Institute of Energy Research (KIER) signed an agreement to explore specific R&D projects that will enhance the use of palm oil-based biodiesel in South Korea. The Director-General of MPOB, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron represented MPOB and the President of the Institute, Dr Ik-Soo Choi, represented KIER.

The signing ceremony in Putrajaya on 12 December 2005, was witnessed by the Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister, Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui.

Launching of PLASMA

The Palm Oil Training Centre of Malaysia (PLASMA) in Lahad Datu, Sabah aims to develop human resources for the oil palm industry, preparing efficient staff for all levels of operation in the sector right from the sowing of seed, to plantation activities, milling, processing, storing and support services.

The Centre, completed recently at a cost of RM 10 million, is the first such training centre developed by MPOB to provide training for the palm oil industry in Sabah and Sarawak.

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, in launching PLASMA on 6 January 2006, said that the ministry through MPOB would carry out training to raise the efficiency level of the industry.

Seminars and practical training programmes will be held at the Centre, which is in the MPOB Lahad Datu Research Complex.

Director-General of MPOB Retires

The Director-General of MPOB, Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron left the services of MPOB on 18 January 2006. Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Deputy Director-General (R&D) was appointed his successor from 19 January 2006.

Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) from 19 January 2006. He will be responsible for enhancing the image of palm oil products, increasing their export markets and sales, and responding to any market and image problems relating to the palm oil industry. Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron was also appointed Chairman of CB Industrial Products Holdings Bhd (CBIP) from 21 January 2006.

Launching of Palm-Based Polyurethane Flexible Slabstock Foam

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui launched the palm-based polyurethane flexible slabstock foams at the Wansern Foam Industry Sdn Bhd, Batu Pahat, Johor on 24 January 2006,.

The launch marks another milestone in the achievement of the palm oil industry in expanding the non-food applications of palm oil products. It opens the door to a world of opportunities for further growth and investment in value-added production for the palm oil industry.

Through years of research and collaboration between MPOB and InterMed Sdn Bhd, palm-based polyols have been developed as an alternative to petroleum-based polyols in numerous applications. This required overcoming a lot of hurdles from the early stage of producing polyols to the present making of polyurethane.

Malaysian Technology Exhibition (MTE) Awards

Congratulations to MPOB researchers who won two gold, one silver medal and *The*

Very Best Award at the Malaysian Technology Exhibition (MTE) at the PWTC, Kuala Lumpur from 23 to 25 February 2006. The project that won the award and a gold medal was the *Oil Palm Motorized Cutter* by Abd Razak Jelani, Ahmad Hitam, Johari Jamak, Malik Nor and Yosri Gono. The other gold medal went to *Multipurpose Trunk Injection Apparatus*, also by Abd Razak Jelani and Ahmad Hitam and their co-workers Ramdhan Khalid, Idris Abu Seman, Abd Rahim Shuib, Aminulrashid Mohamed and Fauzi Ismail. The silver medal went to *Loose Fruit Separating Machine* by Abd Rahim Shuib, Ramdhan Khalid, Johari Jamak and Yosri Gono.

Launching of Envo Diesel

Envo Diesel, the new biodiesel for fuel was launched by the Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Abdullah Hj Ahmad Badawi, at Dataran Putra, Putrajaya on 21 March 2006.

Envo Diesel, or B5 biofuel, a mixture of 5% palm oil and 95% petroleum diesel, will be available commercially next year.

During the launch, the Prime Minister also witnessed the signing of agreements between MPOB, the Ministry of Defence, Selangor Public Works Department and Kuala Lumpur City Hall to use Envo Diesel.

Launching of Supervised Fertilizer Cluster Scheme, Temerloh

The Deputy Minister of Plantations Industries and Commodities, Datuk Anifah Haji Aman, launched the Supervised Fertilizer Cluster Scheme [or *Kelompok Baja Terselia* (KBT)] in Temerloh, Pahang for the eastern region on 4 May 2006.

The scheme is a well-received concept first proposed in August 2003 to improve the productivity of millers, fresh fruits bunch dealers and smallholders.

For the eastern region, three schemes have so far been launched - KBT Triang, KBT Maran and KBT Jerantut. Since 2003, 12 supervised fertilizer clusters have been launched.

During the event, the Deputy Minister also launched the MPOB office in Temerloh and gave away prizes for the Smallholders' Lucky Draw.

Launching of Envo Diesel in Sarawak

Envo Diesel will be used in Sarawak by three transportation companies from that state - Miri Transport Company, Miri Belait Transport Co. Berhad and Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd.

The Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam, launched the Envo Diesel in Sarawak on 14 May 2006 at the Stadium Tertutup Miri, Sarawak.

During the launching, the Deputy Chief Minister also witnessed the signing of agreements between MPOB and Miri Transport Company, Miri Belait Transport Co. Berhad and Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

Senior Management Retreat 2005

Sixty-three senior officers of MPOB presented their achievements on the Operational Plan 2005 and their plans for 2006 at the MPOB Senior Management Retreat 2005 from 22 to 24 December 2005 at Guoman Hotel, Port Dickson. The event was officiated by Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Basir Ismail, Chairman of MPOB and chaired by Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron, Director-General of MPOB.

Danisco and MPOB Oils and Fats Training Course 2006

The Danisco and MPOB Oils and Fats Training Course was held from 19 to 23 February 2006 at MPOB with the aim to promote the use and acceptance of palm oil as a food substitute especially in the production of margarine and shortenings. It was officiated by Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB at the Equatorial Hotel, Bandar Baru Bangi and attended by 43 participants from nine countries.

Diploma in Palm Oil Milling Technology and Management

MPOB ran again the Diploma Course in Palm Oil Milling Technology and Management. The course spanned three semesters, the first was from 6 to 13 March 2006 at MPOB Head Office. It was attended by 35 participants.

Programme Advisory Committee Meeting

The 26th Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held from 4 to 7 April 2006 at MPOB Head Office. The PAC is a committee, established by the MPOB governing board to advise on the research programmes.

The annual event enables the research to be scrutinized for their technical soundness and relevance to the needs of the industry and country. The PAC members have diverse expertise, knowledge, experience and backgrounds to help the Board in this regard.

The most recent member of the PAC to be appointed is Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron, who joined the Process Engineering and Oleochemical Sub-Committee. Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof was the former Director-General of MPOB and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council.

During the meeting, the Chairman of MPOB, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Basir Ismail, also hosted a dinner for the PAC members. On the final day, the members visited MPOB's integrated farm at KLIA.

The PAC Seminar was held on 6 April 2006 with five members presented papers on their fields of interest. The five speakers were Prof Frederick Meins (University of Basel, Switzerland), Prof Dr K C Hayes (Brandeis University, USA), Ceanry Ayub (Borneo Samudera Sdn Bhd, Malaysia), Michael Kerman (J. Michael Associates, USA) and Thomas Mielke (ISTA Mielke GmbH, Germany).

Team Works - Preparing a High Performance Work Force

Thirty-eight officers attended the course, held from 12 to 14 April 2006 at Tiara Beach Resort, Port Dickson. The participants were trained to see issues in their organization in a refreshing perspective, to appreciate diversity and working in teams, to analyse the internal climate and how to deal with it, to enhance relationships between team members, to deal with the rapid changes at work, to empathize with others and to create harmony at their work place.