

MPOB News

Malaysian Technology Expo 2008 Awards

Congratulations to the MPOB researcher who won the Best Award and a gold medal at the Malaysian Technology Expo held from 21-23 February 2008 at the PWTC, Kuala Lumpur. The project that won both the awards was entitled *Fertile Transgenic Oil Palm* and was headed by Dr Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir.

National Intellectual Property Awards 2008

Congratulations to MPOB researcher, Dr Osman Atil, who won the first prize in the individual category for his research on *Specialty Animal Fat Replacer* (SAFaR™) at the National Intellectual Property Awards competition held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Programme Advisory Committee Meeting

The 28th Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting was held from 7-11 April 2008 at MPOB Head Office. This annual event enables research projects to be evaluated for their technical soundness and relevance in meeting 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 PAC Seminar was also held on 10 April 2008 during which five papers were presented by Prof Dr Tom Sanders, Jim Platts, Prof Jeremy Roberts, Dr James Fry and Dr Vahid Sandijarevic, respectively.

A Get-together between the Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Palm Smallholders and Estate Workers

The event was held on 6 March 2008 at Malawati Stadium in Shah Alam, Selangor. Smallholders and estate workers were informed of the improvements to and the development of their socio-economic status since independence, made possible through the efforts of the government agencies and oil palm plantations. The Malaysian Palm Oil Association on behalf of the oil palm industry presented a plaque inscribed with the words 'RM1 billion' to the Deputy Prime Minister as an indication of its commitment to implementing corporate responsibility to their employees and to society for the next five years.

Three categories of awards, namely, *Anugerah Perladangan Prihatin CR*, *Anugerah Pekebun Kecil*

and *Anugerah Tonggak Kesejahteraan Peneroka*, were awarded to three plantations, three smallholders and to FELDA, respectively.

Sarawak Oil Palm Week

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, officiated the Sarawak Oil Palm Week which was held from 24-28 February 2008 in Miri. The main objective of this programme was to inform the people of Sarawak of the oil palm industry and its contribution to the economy of the country.

Sabah Oil Palm Week

The Sabah Oil Palm Week was held from 16-18 February 2008 in Kota Kinabalu, and it was officiated by Datuk Anifah Haji Aman, the Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. It served to inform the people of Sabah of the developments in the oil palm industry, especially how the industry has contributed to the economy of the people in Sabah and Malaysia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES

Senior Management Retreat 2008

Thirty-five senior officers of MPOB presented their achievements in 2007 and their plans for 2008 at the MPOB Senior Management Retreat 2008 from 16-18 January at the Equatorial Hotel in Bangi. The event was officiated by Dato' Sabri Ahmad, Chairman of MPOB, and was chaired by Dato' Dr Mohd Basri Wahid, Director-General of MPOB.

Diploma Course on Palm Oil Milling Technology and Management

Once again MPOB is running the diploma course on Palm Oil Milling Technology and Management. The course will span three semesters; the first was from 17 March to 29 April 2008 at MPOB Head Office. Forty-six participants attended the course.

Intensive Diploma Course on Oil Palm Plantation Management and Technology

MPOB continued to conduct the intensive diploma course on Oil Palm Plantation Management and Technology. The course also spans three semes-

ters, with the first from 14 April to 8 May 2008 at MPOB Head Office. It was attended by 21 participants.

Skill/Competency in Grading of Oil Palm Fruits

For the first half of this year, three series of courses on the above were held from 25-27 March, on 28 April and from 27-29 May in Sri Manjung (Perak), Sibul (Sarawak) and Sandakan (Sabah), respectively. More than 100 participants attended the first three series of this year's courses.

An Introductory Course on Trading and Marketing of Palm Oil

The course was jointly organized by MPOB and PORAM at MPOB Head Office from 5-8 May 2008. The main objective of the course was to impart

trading and marketing knowledge to those who seek a career in the palm oil industry, and who want to become skilled palm oil traders, to meet the new challenges facing the industry. The course was attended by 104 participants.

Course on Management and Maintenance of Oil Palm Nursery

This annual course on Management and Maintenance of Oil Palm Nursery was conducted in Sepang, Selangor from 21-22 May 2008. The course was to provide participants with information and knowledge on established standards for the maintenance and management of oil palm nurseries, criteria for obtaining the Oil Palm Nursery Certificate of Competency or OPNCC, and on legislative requirements pertaining to nursery operators.