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For Members Only



# **MEOA** *BULLETIN*

**THE MALAYSIAN ESTATE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

Website: [www.meo.org.my](http://www.meo.org.my)

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# EDITORIAL



I hope readers will enjoy the articles and stories in this bumper issue.

Again I am glad that we have new writers, including K J Yap, with his take on rubber plantation management. A story of courage comes from the article by Peter Benjamin on his father who worked in an estate in the early years and how he survived an encounter with a tiger. Members of IJM Plantations team have again come to the rescue with several articles. The Taiwan tour by our members is captured in the article by Jacqueline Foo.

As usual, I wish to thank the Editorial Committee members, as well as the writers who contribute the articles for the Bulletin. I am sure they will be followed by many more who will want to write in.

*Mahbob Abdullah*

## EDITORIAL BOARD

En Mahbob Abdullah,

Dr Chee Kheng Hoy

Ms Jacqueline Foo Sueh Chuan

Mr Tan Teo Kim

Mr Amitabha Guha

Mr M R Chandran



**A**s always, we in the Editorial Committee welcome your comments and more contributions of industry articles for future releases of this bulletin. Articles, jokes, industry news or information of relevance to members of the Association (announcement of industry events etc.) – just send them in! It is understood that opinions expressed are those of the respondents.

Also, if you wish to inquire about placing an advertisement to reach our members who are plantation owners and investors numbering above 250, please contact us by e-mail at: [meoa.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:meoa.secretariat@gmail.com)

The Advertisement Rates (Circulation: 250+) are as follows:-

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RM 1,000 – black & white full page

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RM2,000 – 1 Page Advertorial

RM 500 – insertion

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## THE PRESIDENT OF MEOA



**I** take this opportunity to congratulate the MEOA Editorial Board under the stewardship of Encik Mahbob Abdullah on their endeavour in publishing the MEOA Bulletins over the last few years, including this Term 2016/17's 'bumper' issue. Congratulations!

MEOA is an association that has been recognised as a beacon and 'voice of reason' to promote, foster and protect the interests of the plantation industry in Malaysia. MEOA leverages on like-minded and expertise of its Council, members and in engaging with relevant stakeholders in the industry.

The activities carried on in MEOA are set to share, complement and enhance the members' knowledge of the plantation agriculture and related fields. The quest for continuous improvement in our operations can be realised - by both raising the floor and the bar. By pooling our resources and with the right mind-set and objectivity, we are on the right path to transform MEOA to be an association for members and by members. Kudos to all.

This bulletin collates key news and happenings within MEOA and its members within the term 2016/17. This can be an effective platform to share our activities within the MEOA ecosystem. In appreciating the write-ups from the various contributors for this issue, I hope members and other stakeholders can be generous and be inspired to render continued support to this initiative.

My best wishes to all MEOA members and our stakeholders in all their present and future undertakings.

Let Us Not Rest; Let Our Good Be Better, Let Our Better Be Our BEST.

Thank you.

*Joseph Tek*



## Press Release

# *Farewell to*

## **Datuk Boon Weng Siew**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 1923 - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017**



It is with deep sadness that the Malaysian Estate Owners' Association announces the passing of Datuk Boon Weng Siew, the Association's immediate past President who helmed the Association for 25 years. Datuk Boon was an eminent figure in the plantation industry.

His life had been eventful, with more than its share of excitement and danger at times, and for most of his many long years barring the final two, he enjoyed good health.

Rubber estates formed his childhood background, for he was born on a rubber estate and grew up in various estates, until his father sent him to an English-language boarding school in Seremban to be good in his studies, and to master the English language. However, the studies were stopped by the Japanese invasion.

But he did not stop learning. During the years of the Japanese Occupation, his facility and fluency in English, Mandarin, and Malay proved invaluable when Boon acted as an interpreter for the Force 136 officers who worked behind the lines in the jungles.

After the interruption of the Second World War and a post-war stint in Singapore working in a trade union, he was back in rubber plantations, working for the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, and later on for Tun Tan Siew Sin.

As a manager, Boon developed many improvements including mechanised land clearing, and he progressed to be a director of United Malacca Berhad. From 1984 to 2004, he served on the board of the Rubber Industry Smallholders Association (RISDA).

He took on more voluntary roles and became a member of the Johor Planters' Association (JPA) eventually being elected President, The United Planting Association of Malaysia (UPAM) also becoming President, the National Economic Consultative Council (1988-1990), a board member of the Malaysian Palm Oil Association (becoming vice-chairman 2003-2013), and of course the Malaysian Estate Owners' Association. He also served on the Johor Pardons Board, and was involved with the Rotary Club, Hakka Association and Chinese-language education.

Among the awards he received were his Datukship from the Federal Government in 2013, He was honoured with the Lifetime Excellence Award from the Malaysian Palm Oil Council in 2015. Earlier, in 2011, he had been conferred the Fellowship of the Incorporated Society of Planters.

It is likely Boon's proudest achievement was to have so many friends in the industry who looked to him for leadership. He had a way of going for facts behind the issues, and he had no fear in putting his points across to the authorities when he believed this was necessary. He would go to the press. He was a tenacious champion. He helped develop the rubber and oil palm plantation sector into the multi-billion contributor to the national economy that it is today.

The story of his early years and the achievements of his later years made for interesting reading in a biography MEOA commissioned about him, with the title "Uncle Boon Remembers", published in 2016.

It is also clear that Boon was successful at home. He had met his childhood sweetheart Piong Kim Lan while both were living in neighbouring rubber estates, and they married in 1942, both at the tender age of 19. Over the years he had a repertoire of songs for her, his favourite being "The Moon Represents My Heart." She was his pillar for over 73 years of marriage.

Boon's health declined after Kim Lan passed away in 2015, and soon he was in a wheel-chair, and cared for by his daughters, son, and grandchildren in Johor Bahru. He kept up with the news and checked his email on the computer each day to stay mentally alert. He died peacefully on 11th March 2017. He was 93.

We will miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

## Datuk Boon Weng Siew - The Last Interview

*by Mahbob Abdullah – Editor*



On a sunny morning in Johor Bahru sometime last year I was once again walking up the road from Mutiara Hotel to the house of Datuk Boon Weng Siew, a year since he stepped down as President of the Malaysian Estate Owners Association. I had heard that his health was not so good.

I had time to reflect on the earlier years when I went to see him, a man over 80 years old then, and sprightly, leading the MEOA as President. I had to get to know him better, and perhaps include his story in my new book.

For that story I remember I had to go to the Flamingo Hotel, a short distance from Bangunan Getak Asli where the meetings of MEOA council were usually held. He would arrive for the meeting like you could set your watch on that.

If you were late he was known to let you settle down, and might even go over what had been covered, before going on, which to me was stretching the tolerance of the other members who had arrived on time. But no one would protest, for he had a way to cut through problems and suggest how each could be resolved.

Usually if it was a matter only the government could solve, he would ask one of the members to take up the point with the right person in authority. He had a way of making a suggestion, and I had found it to be a mistake by thinking it was just that, and realised from a slight change in his tone that it was really an instruction. There was little chance that I could get out of it. Perhaps if I had disagreed, or declined, I would imagine nothing would happen, but I would fall in his esteem a degree or two. I never stopped to find out, and did his bidding. Sometimes when he was really disappointed in something, or someone, there would be a chuckle from him. I know because there were times when I rang and told him I hoped he would understand if I could not attend a council meeting as something had turned up at the last minute. He would answer politely that it was noted, but I could not help hearing at the other end there was a chuckle.

There was a lot I could learn from him on how to get along. Outside of the association matters, I did not get out of him much, although I could see that he had a way of observing what went on, like he knew more of what was happening than what he would let on. However, on issues that the association had to grapple with, he would go on at length on dates and events that many members had long forgotten, and he would recite previous costs of production, that no one could match his skill at recall.

He would boldly recite these figures when he talked to the government officials about the steps he would try to get amended or rescinded, especially if such steps could add to the losses that the new growers were facing. He waged a long war on the oil palm windfall tax. If he felt someone in government was not paying attention, he would talk to the press. His photo and his points would be there the next day for all to read. He would not mince his words.

He went with field visits to Perak, or Melaka and Johor, and I had missed several, but went along to Johor to see the young palms giving high crop with compound fertilisers. The plantation owner had passion for his work, and we listened as he talked on yield and precocity. Boon listened carefully, leaning on his walking stick and if he was tired he did not show it. He worked indefatigably for the association.

When he was conferred a Datukship from the Federal Government, members were jubilant that his work was recognised, and it was also a reflection on the contribution to the industry by the MEOA.

When he agreed that the MEOA would like to get a book out on him, it fell to a committee of five to do it. Member Khoo Khee Ming would lead with the committee members being Jacqueline Foo, Mark Chang, M R Chandran and me being roped in. It meant a series of meetings, much time spent meeting professional writers, and trying to figure out how they would work. Writers were a sensitive breed, as we found out. Then we met with printers, and cover designers, and we pored over photos from albums brought back from Boon's house. He was a methodical person, to say the least, and when we were there the albums with photographs were all stacked for us to choose, and for each photo he could tell a story that could be about work, or family. He was also an avid photographer, which we didn't know, and in his young days he also had a dark room, where he processed the photos. So we got a good collection to choose for his book. He could also sing, the two favourites he used to sing to his wife Piong Kim Lan were "The Moon Represents My Heart", and "Over The Rainbow." He had a good voice.

After countless cups of coffee and curry puffs the drafts were edited, and done again so the details were correct, and the book *"Uncle Boon Remembers"* was finally put to bed about a year after it started. It was not about money, for that arrived fast from members. It was about going into details, finding that accuracy was important, and getting the flow of the story, and trying to agree on the structure and the right use of words. When it was successfully published and launched, it was amazing that the committee members were still on speaking terms. But that was how it went, and showed the strength of the association and its members that the fellowship was still intact.

Now I had arrived at his house after that walk from the hotel, and it was clear that in the one year Datuk Boon's health had declined further.

His wife Kim Lan having passed away, the loss had affected him severely. She had been his pillar, and in her last years he had taken care of her. With her gone, it seemed that the air was sucked out of him. This was despite being well looked after by his granddaughter Fiona, and a maid to attend to him. Fiona also helped with the email, and the internet, so he got more news that way.

"But I miss walking, I used to walk a lot," he said. "This life in a wheelchair is frustrating. My day is the same with breakfast at seven. Then I would have therapy using the walker. But I am not sure if it is any good. I would have lunch at noon, and then rest with a nap, and then go back to my emails and the news on the internet. I have a nap again before dinner. Later I watch the news including on BBC, and by nine I am in bed.

"For my colon cancer I take the medicine they give me but I also take the soursop soup, which my friends tell me is good for my problem. You brew fifteen leaves for half an hour, and drink the water three times a day and do that for five weeks. They have taken out my canal and I have a colostomy bag here at my waist. When I am sad I will sing, the same songs that I used to sing to my wife."

Since that interview I had called the house and spoken to him, and we covered plantation industry issues, and we had a good chat before he would feel tired.

This time I had forgotten to call him for several weeks. When I remembered it would be in the late afternoon when he would be taking his rest.

The news came suddenly on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 that he had died. It should not have been a surprise, but it was not easy to accept that he had passed away.

On the other hand probably he was ready to go. News came that he had been hospitalised for two days, and then asked to be allowed to go home to spend his last hours with his family. That was what had happened.

He was ready, and he went when he wanted to.

May his soul rest in peace.





# The Malaysian Estate Owners' Association

## Study Tour To Taiwan

13TH – 20TH NOVEMBER 2016: AN OVERVIEW

*by Jacqueline Foo*

### Introduction

Agriculture in Taiwan may not include single-crop plantations on the scale seen in Malaysia. It tends instead to be characterized by small-scale and intensive farming, specializing in a single plant it is true, yet Taiwan stands out in Asia as a country that takes its agriculture very seriously, achieving high yields in the cultivation of food crops and taking the global lead in the tissue-cultured growing of decorative orchids for export, while constantly innovating and applying knowledge garnered from several other fields of study, not necessarily confined to agriculture.

### Background

The study tour to Taiwan was the brainchild of one of our senior members, Mr Lim Sun Heng, who generously introduced the organizers on the MEOA side to a Malaysian friend of his in Taiwan - one Dr Ng Lean Teik, currently Professor of Agriculture at the National Taiwan University. The first meeting with Professor Ng in Kuala Lumpur, in July 2015, gave the good professor an idea of the particular areas of interest of participating members, and what to focus on when showing us aspects of agriculture in Taiwan. The most suitable time of year to visit Taiwan was discussed. Avoiding typhoons was the major concern of the MEOA organizers, so late October and November were identified as suitable times. Due to Professor Ng's teaching commitments for the rest of the 2015/2016 academic year, and the requirement for him to take leave from the university to accompany us on the trip, as well as allowing sufficient time for Professor Ng to contact the places of interest he had in mind for us to visit, resulted in a week in November 2016 being agreed upon.

The minimum number of participants for the trip to be economically viable was 20. As MEOA members were slow in coming forward to sign up and the cut-off date was drawing closer, a few non-members with related interests expressed interest to join the tour and were invited to do so. These outsiders included parties involved in tissue culture propagation of Malaysian fruits and vegetables, as well as organic aquaculture and vegetable cultivation. Other non-member participants included those working in a company selling agricultural testing equipment, and another in a large plantation company. As it turned out, their inclusion in the group proved fortuitous as their participation contributed considerably to the level of discussion generally, and specifically at some of the establishments Professor Ng had arranged for us to visit.

After some drop-outs and substitutes, the number of participants eventually settled at 26, with 13 members, 3 accompanying spouses and 10 non-members committing to the trip. (The list of participants is appended at the end of this article.)

### Itinerary

The itinerary was worked out between Professor Ng and a travel agency in Taiwan, with input from the MEOA organizers as to required standards of hotel accommodation, meals and transport. Two months before the departure date, participants had received the proposed itinerary, which included visits to 23 agriculture-related establishments, ranging from farms cultivating fruits and vegetables in the traditional way (albeit with an eye on being organic in approach), to those concerned with hydroponic growing of vegetables, others with almost factory-type approaches to mushroom growing. On the list were also farms rearing fish for the table, as well as laboratories breeding ornamental fish for export, agro-industrial parks, large businesses involved solely with tissue cultured propagation of *phalaenopsis* orchids and their cultivation in greenhouses with high-tech automation and control, and factories manufacturing agricultural machines (some with an astonishing degree of automation). In addition to the 'serious' stuff, Professor Ng and Tony Lee from the travel agency in Taiwan also planned for us to do some sight-seeing, with a night visit to the Taiwan 101 Observatory in Taipei factored in, as was an overnight stay at the famous beauty spot Sun-Moon Lake, located at mid-



## Study Tour To Taiwan

point up the length of western Taiwan. The return journey to Taipei from the southern city of Kaohsiung was to be by Taiwan's High Speed Rail ("HSR"), to allow us to experience a different way of traveling in Taiwan. We were greatly impressed by and appreciative of the tremendous amount of work and effort put in by Professor Ng to contact the 23 establishments to arrange for us to visit them, and by the excellent program arranged for us by Professor Ng and the travel agent, right down to the restaurant and dishes selected for every meal.

Our itinerary for the trip is included here with a map of our route.

### MEOA FIELD TRIP-TAIWAN: ITINERARY

旅遊日期 (Date)	旅遊人數 (Pax)	行程a規劃 (Tour Operator)
13/Nov/2016 ~ 20/Nov/2016	26 pax	李湘德 Tony Lee Tel: +886937-901-777 Email: tony901777@gmail.com

日期 DATE	行程 ITINERARY	飯店 HOTEL
<b>Day 1</b> 11/13 (SUN)	<b><u>Taipei - Yilan – Taipei</u></b> (72 km /1 hr one way) AM: 1. Yilan - Lanyang Kumquat Production Cooperative (Kumquat farm and processing factory) PM: 1. Yilan - Sanxing Green Onion farm (Major organic green onion cultivation and processing sites) 2. Taipei 101 Observatory  Lunch: Yilan Restaurant Dinner: Giyuan Restaurant	4★ Taipei Brother Hotel
<b>Day 2</b> 11/14 (MON)	<b><u>Taipei - Taichung - Nantou Puli</u></b> (160 km, 69 km/1 hr) AM: 1. Taipei - IE-IE Corporation Co., Ltd (Agro-machinery factory: production of cultivating and gardening machineries) PM: 1. Taichung - Xinshe Jincheng Shiitake Mushroom Farm 2. Nantou - Nong-Fu Agriculture Farm (Hydroponic vegetable farming and king oyster mushroom cultivation) NIT: Hot Spring Tour  Breakfast: In Hotel Lunch: Mushroom Restaurant Dinner: Hotel Buffet	5★ Fleur de Chine Hotel Sun Moon Lake
<b>Day 3</b> 11/15 (TUE)	<b><u>Nantou - Changhua – Taichung</u></b> (64 km, 26 km) AM: Sun Moon Lake Boat Cruise PM: 1. Changhua - Royal Base Corporation (Phalaenopsis tissue culture, young plants, flowering plants and cut flowers production) 2. Changhua - Ten-Wei Horticultural Production Cooperative (High-tech greenhouse tomato cultivation)  Breakfast: In Hotel Lunch: Sun Moon Lake Restaurant (Aboriginal-style cuisine) Dinner: Japanese Restaurant	5★ Taichung The Splendor Hotel
<b>Day 4</b> 11/16 (WED)	<b><u>Taichung - Chiayi – Tainan</u></b> (110 km, 72 km) AM: 1. Chiayi - Yih Shyang Co., Ltd. (Agro-machinery and automation factory) PM: 1. Chiayi - Shi-Ning Farm (Organic black fungus cultivation) 2. Tainan - Taisuco Phalaenopsis (Orchids breeding and mass propagation)  Breakfast: In Hotel Lunch: Lotus Creative Cuisine Dinner: Traditional Taiwanese Cuisine Restaurant	5★ Tainan Tayih Landis Hotel

## Study Tour To Taiwan

<b>Day 5</b> <b>11/17</b> <b>(THU)</b>	<b>Tainan – Kaohsiung (53 km)</b> <b>AM:</b> 1. Tainan - Yihua Taiwan Tilapia Cultivation Farm (Salt and fresh water tilapia farming) 2. Tainan - Liang-Sao Eco-Aquaculture Farm (Eco-farming of eel, milk Fish and tilapia) <b>PM:</b> 1. Tainan - South Taiwan Science Park 2. Tainan - Tenha Organic Farm (Organic production of fruits, vegetables and livestock) 3. Kaohsiung - A-Lin-Shi Nontoxic Shrimp (Organic shrimp farming)  <b>Breakfast:</b> In Hotel <b>Lunch:</b> Fish Farm Cuisine <b>Dinner:</b> Peking Duck Cuisine	<b>4★</b> Kaohsiung Hotel Dua
<b>Day 6</b> <b>11/18</b> <b>(FRI)</b>	<b>Kaohsiung - Pingtung – Kaohsiung (30 km one way)</b> <b>AM:</b> 1. Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park - Briefing by the Director 2. Advanced Green Biotechnology Inc. (Production of biopesticides and biofertilizers) 3. Dayi Agritech Co. Ltd. (Production of horticultural seeds and agricultural materials) <b>PM:</b> 1. Taikong Corp. (Production of transgenic fish and aquatic biotechnological products) 2. Hyden Biotechnology Co., Ltd. (Aquatic life breeding, hydroponic vegetables and aquaculture algae production)  <b>Breakfast:</b> In Hotel <b>Lunch:</b> Agricultural Biotechnology Park Restaurant <b>Dinner:</b> Famous Seafood Restaurant	<b>4★</b> Kaohsiung Hotel Dua
<b>Day 7</b> <b>11/19</b> <b>(SAT)</b>	<b><u>Kaohsiung - Pingtung - Kaohsiung - Taipei</u></b> <b>AM:</b> 1. Kaohsiung - Yongling Shanlin Organic Farm (Organic vegetable cultivation) 2. Pingtung - Ding-Zhen Gaoshu Organic Papaya Farm <b>PM:</b> 1. Pingtung - Liang-Zhi Greenhouse Refined Agriculture Farm (Organic cultivation of high value lady tomato and other crops) 2. Kaohsiung - Kaita Agriculture Farm (Production of king guava)  <b>Breakfast:</b> In Hotel <b>Lunch:</b> Hakka Style Cuisine <b>HSR 242 Kaohsiung / Taipei 16:15 / 17:57 (By Bullet train)</b> <b>Dinner:</b> Yinyih Restaurant	<b>4★</b> Taipei Brother Hotel
<b>Day 8</b> <b>11/20</b> <b>(SUN)</b>	<b>Taipei - KL</b> <b>Breakfast:</b> In Hotel  Transport to Taipei airport	HOME SWEET HOME



### MAP SHOWING ROUTE & ITINERARY

(Prepared By Dr Kam Suan Pheng)

#### Taipei

With the study tour starting on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, almost all the participants flew into Taipei on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, as we were keen to orientate ourselves and do some exploring of Taipei before the start of the official trip. Arriving in Taipei on the Friday gave us time to explore some of the night markets for which Taiwan is famous, and to sample the street food. Our different flights were met by our ever-patient agent and guide, Tony Lee. The following day, Saturday, a large group of us went to the National Palace Museum and signed up for an English-speaking guided tour covering the sections with Jade, Ceramics and Bronzes, as well as the early evolution of writing. It was a highly educational and informative session, conducted by a very knowledgeable and well-spoken guide, who managed to retain the interest of his charges with his great sense of humour as he took us around the exhibits. Following the conclusion of the guided tour, a few very fortunate members of the group just happened to notice a queue near the Jade section, and discovered that the famed Jade Cabbage – a piece of green and white jadeite carved to depict a head of Chinese cabbage with two insects on the cabbage, - was on exhibit after its return from several months' 'posting' to the National Palace Museum's southern branch in the city of Chiayi. The Jade

Cabbage is one of the three most famous pieces associated with the Museum, and close inspection of the piece makes its status and popularity understandable.

Following our few hours at the Museum, some of us headed for the teahouses in the hills outside Taipei, while others headed to the fish market followed by a visit to Taipei's historical and huge Grand Hotel, much used in the past for occasions of State by the founding father of present-day Republic of China, Taiwan, Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek. Evening saw us gathering for a welcome dinner hosted by Professor Ng, when had their first introduction to the excellent cuisine available in Taiwan.

### The Study Tour

The study tour started in earnest the next day, Sunday, when we boarded our luxurious Korean-made coach and met our English-speaking guide, Vincent Chiang. From that point on, the remainder of the MEOA study tour followed the itinerary that had been meticulously planned by Professor Ng, except for the last day in Kaoshiung when we ran out of time and had to forgo visiting two of the places on our itinerary. Throughout the tour, whether at the places we visited or on the coach, Professor Ng was remarkable in answering our questions indefatigably and sharing with us his extensive knowledge of agriculture in Taiwan.

In following issues of The Bulletin, we will be featuring articles written by participants of our visits to the different establishments arranged for by Professor Ng, whose selection provided us with an excellent cross-section of the variety in Taiwanese agricultural activity.

The takeaway for this writer was the system that has been set up by the Government to ensure that any useful results and findings from agricultural R&D undertaken by the research institutions (such as universities) is fed to farmers



## Study Tour To Taiwan

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through their co-operatives, which assist farmers to obtain agronomic, technical and financial support as needed. In turn, the farmers give feed back to the co-operatives on the practical results of any agronomic and technical innovations introduced by the research institutes which the farmers may have implemented, so that the research teams can review and modify as necessary. From what we were given to understand, this communication goes on all the time and enhances both the research and the actual results arising from practical application of research recommendations.

Another recent development is the larger role private-sector corporations are prepared to take on in impressively large-scale organic agriculture in fulfillment of their CSR, perhaps propelled by the personal interest of their CEO or main shareholder.

All participants agreed it was not only an educational trip, but one that was great fun, with friendly interaction between all participants, MEOA members and non-members alike, due to the ice-breaking tactics of a particular Gen Y member participant, who was incorrigible in the cheekily personal questions he pestered other participants with on the coach, but he succeeded in getting almost everyone to open up about themselves. A real sense of camaraderie developed during the trip, and there has even been talk of a reunion, but this has yet to materialize as people have returned to their busy lives.

Both Mr Robert Khoo and Mr Chee Chuan Chai, veterans of MEOA field trips, declared this to have been the best study trip they had participated in during their many years in MEOA. And for this praise, we must give a huge vote of thanks to Professor Ng, assisted by Tony Lee.



**First Visit on the Itinerary to an Organic Kumquat Farm**



**At a Factory Producing Agricultural Machinery for Sowing & Planting**

**MEOA Taiwan Study Trip Participants 2016**

No.	Pic	Name	Company	Comments	MEOA
1		Ng Lean Teik	National Taiwan University	Education	No
2		Jacqui Foo	Foo Nyit Tse & Brothers Sdn. Bhd.	Oil palm estate and Mill	Yes
3		Daniel Tan See San	STANgroup Sdn. Bhd.	Oil palm estate	Yes
4		Gan Tee Jin	Gan Teng Siew Realty Sdn. Bhd.	Oil Palm Plantation and Mill w Biogas Plant	Yes
5		Ng Yee Why		Accompanying spouse	Yes
6		Tan Chee Lan	Amarlan Sdn. Bhd.	Oil Palm Plantation	Yes
7		Sanjay Vohrah	Amarlan Sdn. Bhd.	Oil Palm Plantation	Yes
8		Bunnie Lim Sun Heng	Heah Seok Yeong Realty Sdn. Bhd.	Oil Palm Plantation	Yes
9		Leong Lyne Ching		Accompanying spouse	Yes
10		Darrell Lim Chin Chye	M.R. Maju Sdn. Bhd.	Oil palm estate	Yes
11		Philip Loo Ping Look	Loo Urban Farm	Urban farming	No
12		Robert Khoo	Individual	Estate management	Yes
13		Chee Chuan Chai	Individual	Estate management	Yes
14		Ong Soo Cheng	Gan Teng Siew Realty Sdn. Bhd.	Oil Palm Plantation	Yes
15		Chan Mai Chin		Accompanying spouse	Yes

## Study Tour To Taiwan

No.	Pic	Name	Company	Comments	
16		Kenneth Low Ann Shyun	Biotech Abadi Sdn. Bhd.	Lab Consumables and instruments, pollination bag	No
17		Vincent Tan Cheah Fook	Biotech Abadi	Lab Consumables and instruments, pollination bag	No
18		Gan Ghee Whoon	Sime Darby	Agricultural Chemicals & Tools for Oil Palm Plantation	No
19		Leslie Ong	Ongs Properties Sdn. Bhd.	Oil palm estate & cattle rearing	Yes
20		Amit Guha	Arabis Sdn. Bhd.	Agricultural Consultant	Yes
21		Zainuddin Siregar	Arabis Sdn. Bhd.	Agricultural Consultant	Yes
22		Leong Yueh Kwong	Individual	Accompanying spouse	No
23		Kam Suan Pheng	Sunrich Biotech Sdn. Bhd.	Tissue culture plantlets	No
24		Boey Huey Shen	Sunrich Biotech Sdn. Bhd.	Tissue culture plantlets	No
25		Tan Kai Yee	Floreo Agrotech	Aquaponics	No
26		Chong Eng Keat	GEM Group	Education	No
27		Chin Khuan Sui	Individual	Accompanying spouse	No
28		Vincent Chiang	Freelance	Tour Agent in Taiwan	No
29		Tony Lee	Romantic Travel Service	Tour Agent in Taiwan	No





## DATIN PADUKA TAN SIOK CHOO

*by Mahbob Abdullah - Editor*

When I interviewed Datin Paduka Tan Siok Choo a few months ago I had the chance to get to know her a bit better, for I think coming from a prominent family, she had built a reserve that is more for self-defence.

But over lunch I let her talk and it looked to me that she had a mind that would not accept things as they were, and would look out to make some changes even if it meant that it would lead to a fight. She graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Bristol, U.K. and was admitted as a Barrister at Lincoln's Inn, London in 1976 and to the Malaysian Bar in 1977. But she never worked as a lawyer. She went to look for other skills.

She became a journalist, with the Star and the Business Times, and even now her articles in the Sun can still give her views in very strong terms. She says that the industry we are in can be viewed as over-taxed, under-appreciated and disregarded. Over the years, she continued to avoid doing law, or politics, even when her father Tun Tan Siew Sin was Finance Minister, and head of the MCA. She wanted to know what makes companies tick, and she worked as an investment analyst with several stockbroking firms including Rashid Hussain Securities, Morgan Grenfell Asia & Partners and K&N Kenanga. At different times she headed the corporate finance department in Southern Bank Berhad, and she was a director of the subsidiaries of OCBC, including OCBC Bank (Malaysia).

She chose to join the Institute of Strategic & Internal Studies (ISIS) Malaysia in 1998 in one of the most challenging times for the stock market and the ringgit. The team had brainstorming sessions on how to build a knowledge-based economy. There was also a time when she worked for Korn Ferry International, the world's largest executive search firm, and no doubt there she would have had a good chance to size up character.

Now as Chairperson of United Malacca Berhad, it can be said that she is taking her place at last to lead the business that her grandfather Tun Tan Cheng Lock had started over a hundred years ago. It was in rubber then, of course, but over the years it went on to oil palm, adding areas in Sabah. From the start, the business grew from 186 hectares. By 2002 it was over 8,000 hectares, and then grew to 24,000 hectares when a big plantation in Keningau was acquired in 2010.

As more suitable land is hard to find, it is prepared to go abroad.

"I went to every place where we wanted to expand in Indonesia," she told me. "In Kalimantan we have a joint

venture with a local family, with 24,000 hectares. We value them as partners. They still own some shares and we have 83%. We could even agree to a lower percentage. We wanted them to be really a part of the business, so we can grow together. That is in Central Kalimantan, not far from South Kalimantan capital of Banjarmasin.

"The expansion in Indonesia has been possible when Peter Benjamin joined us as the CEO. He spent many years there, and he has also worked in other crops. We are building a team.

"Recently we entered into negotiation to buy shares in nearly 60,000 hectares in Central Sulawesi. We may plant rubber for timber, coconut, cocoa or coffee. We can consider high value medicinal plants. It will need more study. We will do more research."

For oil palm, she outsourced research and development to University Putra Malaysia on four projects. They include mechanisation of oil palm harvesting, breeding dwarf oil palms, develop early indicators for ganoderma fungus attack, and testing the effect of zinc and copper in raising yields in minerals soil.

"I also can say that I learned a lot from the places I see, here and in Indonesia. We can take care of our workers better, and improve their skills. We should get young people to join plantations. They can visit estates and see what we do, and enjoy the environment. We plan to award more scholarships. We can welcome women to be planters, we can help them succeed too."

On 31 October 2015, she received an Honorary Doctorate in Plantation Management from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) Chancellor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at the university's 39th convocation.

In conjunction with the Sultan of Selangor's 70th birthday celebration, on 12 December 2015, Ms. Tan Siok Choo was conferred the Dato Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah (DSIS) award, which carries the title Datin Paduka.

The Malaysian Estate Owners Association congratulates Datin Paduka Tan Siok Choo on being honoured with both awards.

My parting impression after that lunch was that she had readied herself for the way ahead, and each task she took on in the past had helped her see to that.



# MEOA 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 18th March 2016

*At Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort*

After a few meetings, the Golf Organising Committee finally decided that the venue for 2016 MEOA Annual Golf should be in Ipoh for its cuisine, and specifically in Clearwater for its scenic set-up and irresistible offer of RM88.00 per pax. The writer, being resident in Ipoh has been nominated as the ground coordinator.

We took a risk to confirm the venue as MEOA's game would be held in the dry season when the ground was not soggy, and when buggies would be allowed on course which is important for majority of the Senior Citizen players. Fortunately luck was on our side and the course was in favourable condition on 18th March.

The Golf committee under the able chairmanship of Henry Chan, has work very hard in trying to make this tournament a very memorable and enjoyable one and has gone all out to secure many sponsors including 3 hole – in – one prizes, namely a Mitsubishi Tractor by Eurostar for hole no 17, 10 tonnes Compound fertilizer by Super Straights for hole 11 and 500 ramets by FGV for hole 7. Unfortunately, no participant came close to claiming these attractive prizes. However, there were many other prizes to be won.

It was indeed a memorable day for the Golf Committee and Golfers as the organisation on site was left almost entirely to us with the main Club's personnel in-charge not being around due to various reasons. Our secretary and chairman did very well in registering and mustering all the players for their lunch and group photo on schedule. A few of the players who went to the driving range to warm up, actually had to skip their lunch and were hoping to get some bites at the halfway houses. They were very disappointed as the half way houses were not manned due to lack of buggies despite our secretary having offered to serve the drinks herself.

Only a few Golfers did not turn up and all players were at their respective T-boxes well ahead of time after a scare of inadequate buggies. Fortunately, the GM of Clearwater was around to recall 4 buggies from those on the course. The game tee-off was 15 minutes early as everyone was eager to start. This was when **agonies**, **frustrations** and **endurance tests** commenced. Most of the good players enjoyed the game on **White "T"** while the others were not so lucky with the unforgiving fairways lined with water hazards, roughs and forests – only 2 holes were without water hazards. The game was

considerably slowed down by those looking for balls in the rough, many buggy breakdowns and fatigue a consequence of hunger / thirst. Good or otherwise, it was indeed a memorable outing for most and an even more enjoyable one for the winners. The game ended on time at about 6.00 pm and all were very punctual at the Restaurant except for 2 senior citizens who lost their way and needed a good samaritan to guide them there. No one could blame them as they were not IT savvy to use the GPS.

It was a sumptuous dinner with compliment from Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian who could not be present due to an overseas engagement and so were all other Taiko/KLK executives who were having their Annual Dinner in another venue at the same time. Our grateful thanks goes to Tan Sri Lee for the dinner and his unwavering support for MEOA's functions all along. Everyone had an enjoyable time at the dinner, strengthening the MEOA fellowship with the sponsors and guests.

To the Overall Champion, Dr Nick Low, we extend our hearty congratulation and hope he will be able to defend his title by not being a "buaya" next year. He played extremely well for a 24 handicapper and even birdied the Index hole! His flight mate ( 11 handicapper) reckoned that for his age, he should be playing off handicap 18 (?). For all those not so lucky where Lady Luck might have deserted them for a while, there is always a next time since MEOA Golf is held annually. Please come to support a good cause as the proceeds go to charity – MEOA's Education Fund.

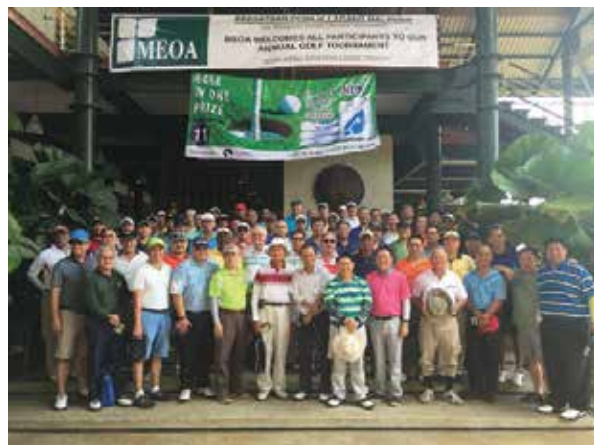
Except for some unexpected management hiccups in Clearwater, we could still consider the 32nd MEOA Annual Golf Tournament a success. At least the majority present would be bringing back memorable experience of the Golf Course and food in Ipoh. Our utmost thanks to Jeffrey Ong and Mark Chang for securing the most sponsors between them and preparation of banners/ buntings etc and to our Secretary Michelle Lim for the hard work rendered in ensuring the Annual Golf a success. We would also like to extend out profound thanks to all sponsors for their staunch support and we would be looking forward to their support again next year.

The writer's apology for any shortcomings experienced on the ground at Clearwater which was beyond our control.

## *Golf - Tournament - Acknowledgement*

1.	Amberton Transport Sdn Bhd
2.	Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd
3.	Agromate (M) Sdn Bhd
4.	Avery Malaysia Sdn Bhd
5.	Behn Meyer AgriCare (M) Sdn Bhd
6.	Baka Benih Sdn Bhd
7.	Carotino Sdn Bhd
8.	Credit Suisse AG
9.	E-Komoditi Sdn Bhd
10.	Eurostar Tractors (M) Sdn Bhd
11.	Fheng Kong Engineering Sdn Bhd
12.	Foong Lee Plantations Sdn Bhd
13.	Genting Plantations Bhd
14.	GS Supply (Sabah) Sdn Bhd
15.	Hap Seng Fertilizer Sdn Bhd
16.	IJM Plantations Bhd
17.	Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad
18.	Kulim Toplant Sdn Bhd

19.	Kota Tinggi Estate Supplier Sdn Bhd
20.	Khan Wee Enterprise
21.	Kim Loong Plantations Sdn Bhd
22.	Lintramax (M) Sdn Bhd
23.	Malaysian Rock Products Sdn Bhd
24.	Millinest Sdn Bhd
25.	P K Fertilizers Sdn Bhd
26.	Sato-Kali Special Plus
27.	Taiko Palntations dn Bhd
28.	Tak Plantations Sdn Bhd
29.	United Malacca Bhd
30..	Uli-Mech Industrial Sdn Bhd
31.	Union Harvest (M) Sdn Bhd
32.	Wastech Multigreen Sdn Bhd
33.	Weng Fook Tyres & Batteries Sdn Bhd
34.	Well Blossom Sdn Bhd
35.	Yara International (M) Sdn Bhd





## IJM GIVE DAY OUT 2016

*by Glenda Pang*



**I**JM Plantations Berhad ("IJMP"), in collaboration with the Sabah Forestry Department, has successfully planted 1,000 mangrove saplings at Tandawan, Elopura Forest Reserves in Sandakan.

Inspired by the theme 'Fun with Nature', 110 employees from both IJMP and IJM Land in Sabah joined hands to rehabilitate an ex-encroachment area to prevent further river bank erosion and enhance the mangrove ecosystem in the area.

This year marks the sixth annual Give Day Out (GDO) since the annual CSR programme began in 2010. "We wish to send a message to our employees that volunteering spirit is part of the IJM culture and we are pleased to see that our people are able to contribute to the environment," said Joseph Tek, CEO/MD of IJMP.

On the same day, some 1,800 IJM employees nationwide and around 170 IJM staff in India and China worked on maintaining trails, planting trees, as well as revamping existing facilities to create safer and cleaner green spaces for the benefit of the communities. The IJM Group successfully rehabilitated about 20 playgrounds and amenities at identified areas across Malaysia, China and India during its GDO 2015, themed "Play around Playground" initiative two years ago.





## Employee Total Wellness: IJMP 100 KM Virtual Run Challenge 2016

*by Glenda Pang and Fiona Ho*

186 employees from across the IJM Plantations Berhad laced up their running shoes, in the month of October 2016, to challenge themselves in the inaugural IJMP 100km Virtual Run Challenge. This is in line with IJM groups' Employee Total Wellness programme which was launched in June 2015. The purpose is to promote wellness and inclusiveness among the workforce besides instilling awareness and adoption of healthy living. There are 4 dimensions in the Employee Total Wellness which covers Financial, Physical, Emotional and Environmental perspectives.

A virtual run is a race that can be completed in any location. You can walk, use the treadmill or run outside at your own pace to achieve the allocated goal during the specified period.

The kick-offs were launched both at Wisma IJM Plantations and Sabang Palm Oil Mill 2, Sugut on 4 October 2016 and 6 October 2016 respectively. For the

whole month of October 2016, IJMP employees were seen exercising heartily around Sandakan and Sugut. Taking it a step further, some have also included family members and friends in their journey to a healthy lifestyle.

"I never thought I was capable of going that far. The Challenge motivates me to take the extra mile" and "The challenge allows us to form a closer relationship with our colleagues, especially when we run together and motivate each other to achieve a shared goal" were among comments received from the employees.

All runners took home a custom-made IJM sports towel and an RM160.00 rebate voucher sponsored by Brooks. Runners who have completed the challenge received a custom-made finisher t-shirt and a chance to win lucky draw prizes sponsored by the company. The Challenge successfully ended on 4 November 2016 with the drawing of the lucky draw by Mr. Joseph Tek, CEO/MD IJM Plantations Berhad.



## IJMP Breast Cancer Outreach Programme: Screening and Awareness Talk

*by Fiona Ho*

18 October 2016 : A two-day collaboration between IJM Plantations Berhad, Sandakan Pink Ribbon and Sievert Imaging Centre Sdn Bhd saw 130 women employees undergoing breast screening at the convenient locations of their respective housing areas in the estates sponsored by IJM Plantations Bhd ("IJMP").

A mobile ultrasound machine was transported in turn to the selected locations in the various estates. The machine was accompanied by a qualified radiologist/specialist who carried out the breast screenings.

Three breast cancer survivors from the NGO Sandakan Pink Ribbon volunteered to participate in this event

to share their personal experiences encountering and dealing with the disease. They also conducted Breast Self-Examination (BSE) briefings for training in-house Estate Hospital Assistants and to teach employees who walked in for breast screening. In addition, talks on Contagious Diseases were also conducted to enhance the knowledge of IJMP's in-house Estate Hospital Assistants.

All women are at risk of developing breast cancer during their lifetime. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Malaysian women. Early detection through screening is the key to more treatment options.





## IJMP 2<sup>nd</sup> Oil Palm Seminar 2016

by S. Mohanaraj

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016, IJM Plantations Berhad had organised The 2<sup>nd</sup> Oil Palm Seminar 2016 in Sandakan. It was attended by 47 participants from 17 organisations.

For the record, the 1<sup>st</sup> Oil Palm Seminar was held on 15 April 2016, and among the participants were Mr. Thomas Mielke, Executive Director of ISTA Mielke GmbH Oil World, and Miss Ivy Ng, Regional Head of Plantations & Deputy-Head of Malaysia Research, CIMB Malaysia.

This time around the speakers included Dr. N. Rajanaidu, the recipient of the MPOC Lifetime Excellence Award at the recent PILA 2016 and Mr. Christopher Donough, Senior Oil Palm Advisor with IPNI SE Asia with their respective presentation topics - "Oil Palm Planting Materials: History and Yield Progress", and "Plantation Intelligence: Getting More Value from Estate Data".

Scientists have worked to improve the yield of DxP as planting material and it has led to an expansion of the industry especially in Malaysia and Indonesia. Elsewhere, CIRAD/PalmElit and ASD Costa Rica have become the major seed producers to Africa, South America & Asia. MPOB went on to collect genotypes such as the dwarf MPOB-Nigerian population 12, palms with long-stalk bunches, virescens palms for distinctive colour of ripened fruits, and low lipase which maintains high oil quality despite some delay in harvesting and processing. Socfindo/PalmElit has released recently planting materials partially tolerant to Ganoderma.

The oil palm yield was boosted by breeding that began with the crosses of D X P in Belgian Congo. The oil yield has gone up from 1.4 tonnes/ha to 4.0 tonnes/ha between 1951 and 1991. Breeding may be accountable for 50% of the 4 tonnes oil yield. The improvements can continue with more breeding cycles, and selective genetic collections as earlier reported by Dr J Hardon. The current planting material has the potential of yielding over 8 tonnes per hectare per year of CPO. Well-managed plantations are able to attain 5-6 tonnes of oil/hectare/year, especially in Sabah.

Between 1961 and 2012, the oil palm industry in Southeast Asia expanded at the rate of 500,000 Hectares

per annum as reported by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation. It gave more income than most other crops could have given.

During the early years of expansion of oil palm area, yield improvement from 1.3 tonnes per hectare per year to 5.4 tonnes per hectare per year was derived from better fertilizing, change of planting material, introduction of pollinating insects, and efficient water and milling management. However, since 1991, yield improvement has remained stagnant.

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has proven that implementation of best management practices on a commercial scale could reduce the gap between what is actually achieved and what could be the potential yield of oil palm (Donough et.al, PIPOC 2011).

IPNI identified the problems as the shortage of workers, middle management and skilled agronomists that prevented achieving higher yield. The idea of Business Intelligence was introduced to narrow the gap. This idea, also called "Plantation Intelligence (PI)", includes the use of data that will lead the manager to observe, analyse, evaluate & decide. Plantation Intelligence can be an effective decision-making tool.

The planters can study the factors which include yield compared to age, yield trends, yield soil interactions, yield climate interactions, yield labour effect, and fertilizer response analysis to decide on steps to take to increase production. A software is available to help the user of Plantation Intelligence.



# My Father, Tiger Benjamin

by Peter Benjamin

My father once fought a tiger and lived to tell the tale.

He was born in 1925 in Trivandrum, Kerala, South India, and came to Malaya in the late forties to earn a living. In the early days a visa to Malaya did not specify the person's name. A visa will enable anyone to travel to Malaya.

There was a rich man in our village. He had a couple of daughters and sons. Getting wind that this family had six Visas for Malaya, my father approached them and asked to give him a visa. They refused. Even then my father had a temper. He was also desperate. My father threatened that none of them will ever walk safely on the roads in the village. They gave him a visa which brought him to Malaya.

His sole intention to come to Malaya was to help all his siblings and their children which he did. He managed to get all of them married, provided financial aid for them to get visas to work in the gulf countries. He helped each and every family member. Their gratitude is shown even today to us by all of them.

In all these challenges he faced, he never deprived the needs of his own children. He gave us a good education.

He never failed to help a person in need. He always helped the poor. In his schooldays my Grandma would buy him a double-layered dhoti. If he saw a poor man without proper clothes, he would divide the dhoti into two and give the person one half. He was known till his last days for his charitable nature. He used to always talk about St Lourdes Church in France. I remember once I told him and my mother that I will provide the tickets and all expenses for them to make the pilgrimage to St. Lourdes. He told me, "Son there are so many poor families in India who are finding it difficult to get their daughters married. Please give me the money that you want to send us to France, I will go to India and get a few of these daughters married".

He was a very good sportsman too. He won all pillow fights and athletics during the sports festivals. A good badminton and football player too. His estate team used to play against the army team in Pahang. Only when the Sultan of Pahang, who was also a good football player, played, the game would go on without incidents. Otherwise it was a rough game.

All these good traits in him could have been the cause that saved his life from the jaws of a tiger and many dangers he encountered.

It was at the height of the communist problem in Malaya when he landed in Lancang Estate as a field

conductor. Being a kindhearted man, he got along with all his workers. One day during his field visit along the boundaries of the estate, he was caught by the communist and tied to a tree. They took away his gold ring, chain and shoes. One among them was a former employee of the estate and he told the others not to harm my father since he was a kind man. They let him go. From that day on whenever my father supervised the fields along the boundary, he got invited by the communists who were hiding in the jungle and he spent time chatting with them.

Knowing that the communist was out to kill the estate Manager who was a European, my father advised the Manager never to go to the field without him and he was always with him during his field visit.

Whenever the communist spent time chatting with my father, they always told him not to follow the Manager. But my father always tried to convince them not to harm the Manager since he was a nice man. And he was never harmed.

One day a Chinese couple with two kids came looking for work in the estate and the husband was engaged as a tapper. The tapper was shot dead by the communist while he was tapping. When my father met up with them, he asked them why they killed the poor fellow who had a wife and two kids to feed. They told him he was an informer. My father asked, how they knew. They replied, we too have informers.

This could have been the way how the police came to know about my father's contact with the communist and came looking for him in the estate. But the estate Manager protected my father from the police.

After his encounter with the tiger, he moved on to work in Bukit Dinding Estate, the place where I grew up.

Being a "Planters' holiday" on that day, since it was raining and there was no tapping, the workers in the estate decided to go and check the trap they laid for wild boars. Having reached the location, to their horror they saw a tiger in the trap. They ran back to the housing site and alerted every one. A big group went to see for themselves but noticed the tiger had escaped. They were uneasy about their safety and were fearful to go for tapping the next day.

Hence all the workers decided to go back to the same area and look for the tiger. Everyone came with parangs and all kinds of weapons. My father as a big hero took the lead of the search party. When they reached the spot, the tiger was waiting for them in the bushes. It was only a few meters from my father. He kept his eyes on

the tiger and did not move. He took it for granted that with such a big group of people behind him, they could capture the tiger.

But when the tiger charged at my father, everyone bolted. Some climbed the trees, some ran all the way back to their homes. Even those who did not know how to climb a tree went up the trees, and did not know how to come down. Eventually they were helped down. A struggle took place with the tiger tearing at my father's face and body. As my father narrated, "the swing of the paw is so strong, that when it hits you and tears at your body, you cannot breathe".

It was an inspiration that saved his life. During the struggle, when the tiger opened its mouth to bite, he

put his hand inside its mouth and held on to its neck. The tiger could not move and he shouted at the workers to help him since he had caught the tiger. But no one came except a 20-year old boy. He came running with a parang and slashed the back of the tiger, but it did not help. My father told the boy to slash the head, which he did and killed the tiger. My father collapsed under the weight of the tiger.

The story of his life in Malaya was narrated to us by our father. The scars from the fight with the tiger were with him till he passed away at the age of 89.

From the day of the fight, he was known among his family and friends as "Tiger Benjamin."

The Free Press WEEK-END, June 3, 1951

# Malayan Fought Tiger Bare Hands and Won

"NOW now are you tiger-man?" said the doctor to the patient, about 30 years of age, lying in a narrow distance from his bed.

"What tiger-man? Why?" thought I. The patient whom the doctor addressed, sat up in bed, with a grin on his bearded face, and replied, "I'm all right doctor."

By **SURJIT S. PURBAH**

"You'll be able to go by about two days' time," said the doctor.

This short conversation between the doctor and the patient aroused my curiosity. Tiger-man? Why?

For a moment I forgot a severe pain in the stomach. I sat up in bed, as soon as the doctor left the ward and asked my neighbour, "Why did doc address that chap as Tiger-man?"

He explained to me that the man had fought with a tiger, receiving some injuries to the hand and face.

Fought with a tiger and alive. Incredible.

I made my way to the tiger man. "Hela, you fought with a tiger, sh?" I asked. He moved up his bed, making room for me to sit down and nodded.

"How did it all happen?" I questioned. He was quite eager to relate the tale.

"The labourers on my estate at Lanchang, 11 miles from Mentakab, set a trap for wild boar. The next morning, it was wet and there being no tapping, the labourers went to see if they had caught anything.

On approaching the trap, the hunters saw a tiger caught there. They ran over to the labourers and created a great commotion.

"Was it a big tiger?" I interrupted.

"It was big, more than a pig. So a shooting party went to the spot. The tiger was not there.

"It had escaped," he went on. "The shooting party returned to the estate office disappointed.

"The labourers were terribly disturbed. Their lives were in danger. They would not be able to go tapping.

"So there was a suggestion that the tiger be searched for, and killed. About 50 to 60 labourers and I formed the party. All were

armed with sticks, daggers, spears and parangs. We arrived at the spot. The tiger was there. It was looking at the three labourers and I, and very far from me. The labourer had his eyes on the tiger, then it rushed and sprang towards me.



ANTHONY BENJAMIN

"An inspiration saved my life. I pushed my left arm down its throat. With my right hand I grasped its neck.

The tiger scratched me on the face and the left shoulder," and the Tiger-man showed me the scars.

"What happened to the rest of the party?" I asked.

"Not a trace of them. They all bolted. Some climbed up trees, others ran into the hills and hid.

"I shouted 'I have caught the tiger! Help me. Bring a spear!'"

"The tiger made many attempts to escape but I kept hold of it. It was a long time that I struggled with it."

"At last it came. I had tried to spear the tiger myself when it sprang on me but missed.

"After I had lost hope and had been struggling with the beast for about 35 minutes, a 20-year-old Tamil boy came running towards me, with a parang.

"He slashed the tiger's back. It roared in pain, struggled and nearly escaped from my hold.

"Perspiration poured down my face. I yelled at the boy to slash the animal in the head.

"It was done. The beast collapsed and under its heavy weight, I too fell flat on the ground in a pool of blood."

Anthony Benjamin, the Tiger-man, is "Taman" to his friends on the estate, today. He and Suri Muryanah, who struck the final blow have had an adventure which can have had few counterparts in Malaya.



# PalmaShield



## A Potent Biocontrol Agent for Ganoderma

PalmaShield contains *Trichoderma asperellum* M103. It is a potent biocontrol agent against Ganoderma Basal Stem Rot (BSR) disease in oil palm.

### Benefits

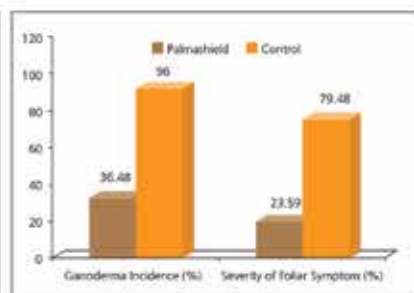
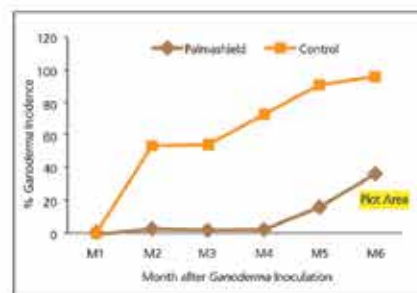
- Protects oil palm from Ganoderma BSR disease;
- Enhances vegetative growth;
- Helps soil amendments;
- Improves nutrient uptake ability;
- Boosts soil decomposition and biodegradation.



The effectiveness of PalmaShield testing at R&D Nursery for Ganoderma Research, Kluang, Johor

### PalmaShield Effectiveness

Assessment of Basal Stem Rot Disease in OP Seedlings treated with Palmashield after 6 months *Ganoderma* artificial inoculation.



Treatment	AUDPC (Unit <sup>2</sup> )	Disease Reduction (%)
PalmaShield (application of 50g at pre-nursery stage)	38.99	87.83
Control	320.46	-

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## HIGH YIELD

AA Hybrid IS yields 22% more oil than our previous DxP planting material (The Dumpy-AVROS).

## STRONG R&D SUPPORT

AAR's breeding programme has its origin dating back more than 40 years. It's even bigger now and backed by a multi-disciplinary and highly qualified team who utilizes a combination of conventional breeding techniques and DNA marker assisted selection methods to accelerate AAR's breeding and selection programme. This will enable AAR to produce greater advancements in planting materials in a shorter time frame.

## SHORT COMPACT PALMS

AAR Dumpy characteristic is bred and fixed in AA Hybrid IS to reduce height increment and thus extend the economic life of the palms. Compactness of the palms allow a higher stand to be planted per hectare.

## HIGHLY UNIFORM

Through the utilization of clonal Dura mothers, AA Hybrid IS palms are highly uniform both in the nursery and field.

## MORE BUNCHES

AA Hybrid IS produces high bunch numbers and moderate size bunches. This make it in a better position to buffer the effect of stress on FFB production. Moderate size bunches translate into high oil extraction rates.

## STRICT QUALITY CONTROL

Our specially trained and highly motivated Malaysian work force produce more than 99% legitimate pedigree seeds which go through a stringent quality control process together with advanced security measures by laser engraving on our seeds to prevent seed counterfeiting.

## REGULATED SEED PRODUCTION

AA Hybrid IS exceeds SIRIM standards for DxP seeds and is licensed by MPOB.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF AA Hybrid IS

### Short

47cm/year

Inherits Dumpy's slow height increment

Smaller petioles

84% of Dumpy-AVROS

90% of external control

Shorter fronds

24.4cm shorter

594.9cm vs 609.3cm at year 12

Compact

Suitable for 148p/ha planting density

Higher planting density

8% increase in planting density  
136p/ha → 148p/ha

## VEGETATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

## FFB AND OIL YIELDS

### Higher FFB yields

111% of Dumpy-AVROS

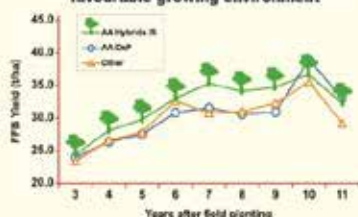
### Higher Oil yields

122% of Dumpy-AVROS at 135p/ha

### Higher Oil yields

27% oil to bunch from 400 bunch analyses

FFB yield profile of AA Hybrid IS in a favourable growing environment



Years after field planting	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AA Hybrid IS (t/ha)	25	27	28	30	32	34	36	38	35
AA DxP (t/ha)	24	26	27	28	30	31	32	33	30
Other (t/ha)	23	25	26	27	29	30	31	32	28

Oil yield profile of AA Hybrid IS in a favourable growing environment



Years after field planting	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AA Hybrid IS (t/ha)	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
AA DxP (t/ha)	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Other (t/ha)	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

## SNEAK PEEK OF AA Hybrid II

- Higher Oil Yields
- 134% realized improvement
- Similar vegetative characteristics as AA Hybrid IS

## HEADQUARTERS:

Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd (Company No. : 90455-D)

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# LIST OF MEOA OFFICE BEARERS

FOR THE TERM 2016 / 2017

<b>President</b>	: Mr Joseph Tek Choon Yee
<b>First Vice-President</b>	: Ms Jacqueline Foo Sueh Chuan
<b>Second Vice-President</b>	: Mr Gan Tee Jin
<b>Secretary</b>	: Mr Lim Ban Aik
<b>Treasurer</b>	: Mr Edwin Tan



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### PERLIS/KEDAH & PULAU PINANG

Dato' Shahabudin Shafie  
Dr S. Sivakumaran  
Mr Lim Sun Heng  
Mr Gobi A/L Chinniah  
Mr Darrell Lim

### PERAK

Dato' Chan Yew Mun  
Mr Daniel Tan See San  
Dr Leong Tat Thim

### SELANGOR & NEGERI SEMBILAN

Mr Khoo Khee Ming  
Dr Chee Kheng Hoy  
Mr MR Chandran  
Mr Robert Khoo  
Mr Teo Soon Huat  
Mr Yap Kai Jie

### MALACCA

Mdm Tan Chee Lan  
Mr Henry Chan Kim Cheng  
Mr Peter Benjamin  
Mr Patrick Tan

### JOHORE

Mr Calvin Ho Han Leong  
Mr Lee Sing Kim  
Mr Ming Kee Kip  
Mr Siow Kwang Hwa  
Mr Teo Leng  
Mr Tan Teo Kim  
Mr Subramaniam Chellam  
Mr Gooi Seong Lim

### PAHANG

En Mahbob Abdullah  
Mr Amitabha Guha  
Mr Tan Thai Pin  
Dr Nick Low Kok Thye  
Mr Kwang Jia Shing  
En Shaardan Sharif  
Mr Ravindran Subramaniam

### TERENGGANU & KELANTAN

Mr Bala Raman  
Mr Tang Sew Hon  
Ms Khor Yu Leng  
Mr Tan Peng Hua  
Ms Lim Wan Yee  
Mr Lim Yee Bee

### SABAH

Dato' Teo Shiok Fu  
Mr Au Yong Siew Fah  
Mr Gooi Seong Chneh  
Mr Tan Tai Leong  
Mr Chee Chuan Chai  
Mr Venkata Chellam  
Mr Mark Chang Teck Mack  
Mr Jeffrey Ong Twee Kwan  
Mr Teo Tee Seng

### SARAWAK

Mr Kok Kam Sang  
Mr Ong Kim Pin  
Mr Shannon Yii Chong Hee

### AFFILIATE MEMBER

Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners'  
Association (SOPPOA)

### HONORARY MEMBER

Y Bhg Datuk Boon Weng Siew

# Future Growth

As an oil palm plantation company with an international presence and a leading producer of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, we remain steadfast in our commitment to developing a sustainable future for all our stakeholders. With more than 100 years of history behind us, coupled with a wealth of experience, we are ready to serve the world's needs well into the future.



Developing  
Sustainable  
Futures

**Plantation**