

WARTA PASCA

postgraduate newsletter

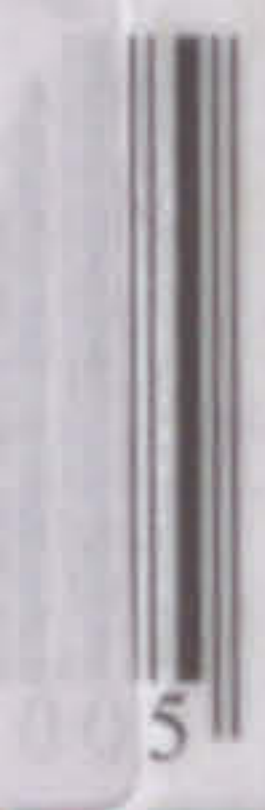
**Production of Single-cell
Protein in Modified Sago
Effluent**

**Culture Of Petro-Alga For
Production Of Bio-Diesel**

**Research and Postgraduate
Studies in Engineering
Faculty**

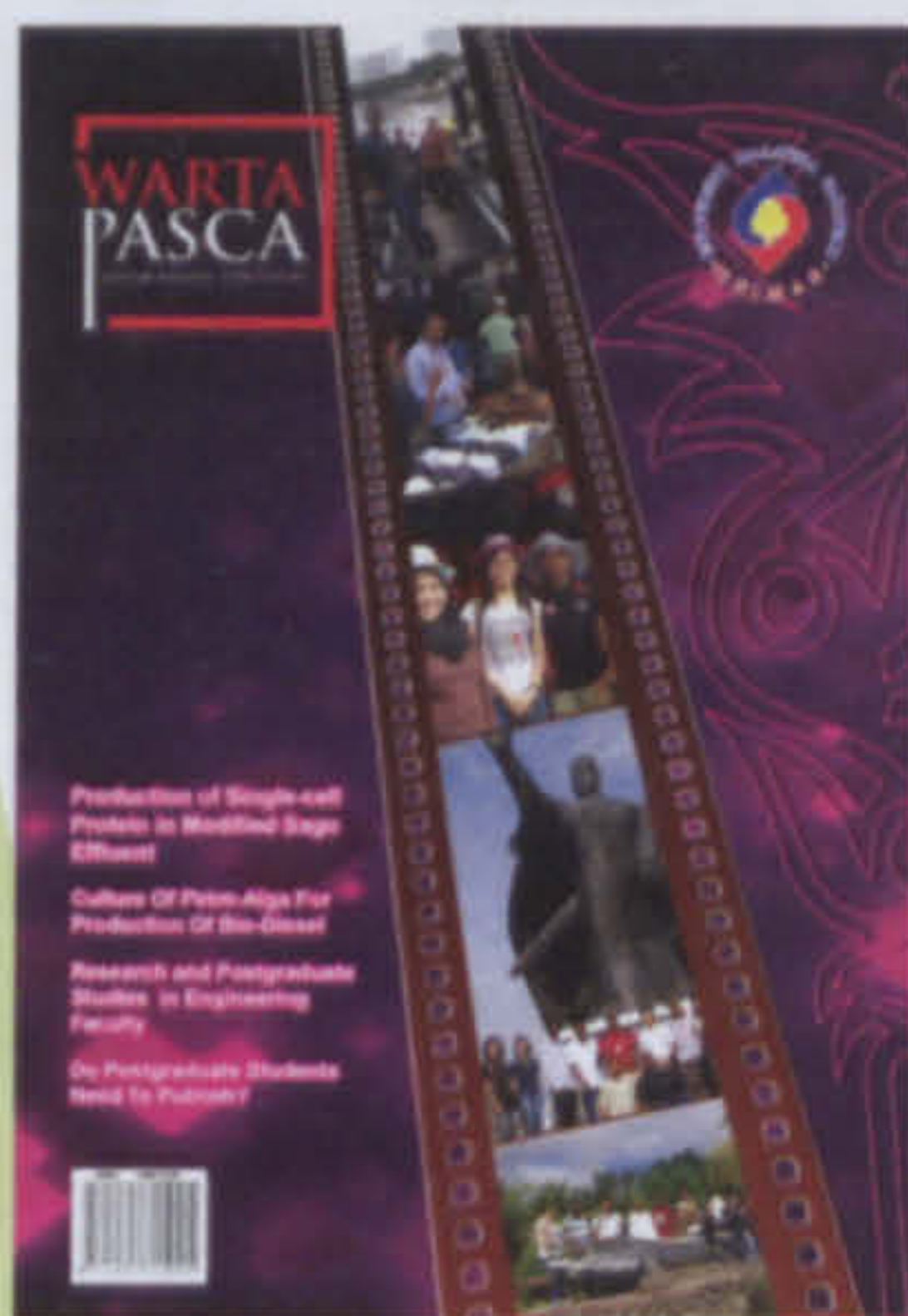
**Do Postgraduate Students
Need To Publish?**

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2010
No.3



WELCOME

TO THE 3RD ISSUE



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WELCOME TO THE 3RD ISSUE

DEAN'S MESSAGE

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PEMULANGAN LEWAT DIKENAKAN DENDA		

Dear All

WartaPasca is once again in your hands, after many hours of work by a limited number of staff who at the same time are diligently performing numerous other tasks.

These tasks involve the management of 62 international students amongst the 796 postgraduate students who have enrolled in various postgraduate programs at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) this year that is managed by the Centre for Graduate Studies (CGS). We at CGS are very committed in providing the best service to help our graduate students to enjoy their stay while studying here.

This year we have added several other activities to our services for the postgraduate community of UNIMAS. Since January 2010, we have arranged for and carried out visits to several locations within Kuching. This will be followed by a few places for a day trip visit within this part of Sarawak. These include a scheduled visit to the Batang Air Dam, Bako National Park and recently to the Jong's Crocodile Farm, with numerous other places along the pipeline. Other than these, CGS has conducted a Home Stay Program at Santubong village and we are now planning for our annual event of the International Postgraduate Nite 2010.

In the spirit of upgrading our services, we have embarked on three major projects pertaining to the management of our graduate school. These are e-registration and e-applicant, which will ease the process of registration and application by harnessing the IT facilities. Apart from this, what used to be demanding chore or re-typing comments from the faculty on your progress reports will be much simpler with the introduction of e-progress report by the end of 2010. Aside from that, I am sure that many of you are familiar with our site on Facebook, CGS UNIMAS, and will continue to use it as an informal mode of communicating with us.

CGS hopes that our objectives of creating a sharing and caring society which is essential for the learning and living environment will bring benefits to our students in completing their studies and realizing their ambitions.

Prof. Dr. Kopli Bujang



WHAT WE OFFER

Postgraduate Degrees by Research

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree is a research by thesis under the supervision of an experienced member of academic staff or a supervisory panel. A panel is made up of graduate staff and experts from either within or outside the University. The minimum duration of studies is 3 years full-time and 4 years part-time.

The academic progress of a research student is evaluated twice a year through progress reports. Final assessment is through thesis and a viva voce examination.

A student who has satisfied the Examination Committee for Postgraduate Studies in all aspects of their work is eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

MASTER'S DEGREE

The Master's degree by research is under the supervision of an experienced member of academic staff or a supervisory panel. A panel is made up of graduate staff and experts from either within or outside the University. The minimum duration of studies is 2 years full-time and 3 years part-time.

The academic progress of a research student is evaluated twice a year through progress reports. The degree is examined through the presentation of a thesis and through a viva voce examination.

A student who has satisfied the Examination Committee for Postgraduate Studies in all aspects of their work is eligible for the award of the Master's degree.

Postgraduate Degrees by Coursework

MASTER DEGREE

The Master degree by coursework programme is designed to extend the knowledge and skills gained from the first degree and to develop new professional skills in graduates. The programme involves lectures, seminars and project work. A minimum of 40 credit points of study and a final Cumulative Grade Point (CGPA) of at least 3.0 is required for the award of the Master's degree.

The minimum 40-credit points of study consists of a combination of compulsory subjects, electives and a research / dissertation project. Each subject carries a weightage of 2 to 3-credit points, and assessments are through take-home assignments, tests and final semester examinations. Student's progress and performance in the research / dissertation project is assessed through oral presentations and written reports.

Prospective applicants should contact the respective faculty/institute/centre for further details of research projects under each field of specialization.

Faculty	By Research		Contact Person
	Master	PhD	
1) Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts	/	/	Assoc.Prof.Dr.Khairul Aidil Azlin Abd.Rahman (azlin@faca.unimas.my)
2) Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Development	/	/	Dr. Hasbee Hj Usop (uhasbee@fcs.unimas.my)
3) Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology	/	/	Dr. Jane Labadin (jlabadin@fit.unimas.my)
4) Faculty of Economics and Business	/	/	Dr. Mohamad Jais (jmohamad@feb.unimas.my)
5) Faculty of Engineering	/	/	Assoc.Prof.Ir.Dr.Andrew Ragai Henry Rigit (arigit@feng.unimas.my)
6) Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences	/	/	Prof. Dr. Mohd. Syafiq Abdulah (amsyafiq@fmhs.unimas.my)
7) Faculty of Social Sciences	/	/	Dr. Neilson Ilan Mersat (mnilan@fss.unimas.my)
8) Faculty of Resource Science and Technology	/	/	Prof. Dr. Fasihuddin Badruddin Ahmad (bfasih@frst.unimas.my)
9) Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation	/	/	Prof. Dr. Andrew Alek Tuen (aatuen@ibec.unimas.my)
10) Institute of East Asian Studies	/	/	Prof.Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdullah (ara@ieas.unimas.my)
11) Institute of Health and Community Medicine	/	/	Prof.Dr. Mary Jane Cardosa (jcardosa@ihcm.unimas.my)
12) Centre for Language Studies	/	/	Dr.Ting Su Hie (shting@cls.unimas.my)

Programme	Faculty	Contact Person
1)Corporate Master in Business Administration (CMBA)	Faculty of Economics and Business	Dr. Lo May Chiun (mclo@feb.unimas.my)
2)Master of Science in Human Resource Development (HRD)	Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Development	Miss Victoria Jonathan (jvictoria@fcs.unimas.my)
3)Master of Environmental Science (Land Use and Water Resource Management) SLUSE – FSTS	Faculty of Resource Science and Technology	Dr. Mohd Effendi Wasli (wmeffendi@frst.unimas.my)
4)Master of Environmental Management (Development Planning) SLUSE – FSS	Faculty of Social Sciences	Dr. Wong Swee Kiong (swkwong@fss.unimas.my)
5)Master of Advanced Information Technology (MAIT)	Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology	Miss Suriati Khartini Jali (jskhartini@fit.unimas.my)
6)Master of Public Health (MPH)	Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences	Mdm Cheah Whye Lian (wccheah@fmhs.unimas.my)
7)Master of Engineering (Civil)	Faculty of Engineering	Dr. Onni Suhaiza Selaman (sosuhaiza@feng.unimas.my)

IN THE NEWS

Newspaper clippings published

We don't have 'express PhD', says Unimas

Vice-chancellor says university has strict vetting procedure when assessing candidates

By Chai Shin Yi

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) vice-chancellor Prof Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid answered with a firm "no" when reporters asked yesterday if there were shortcuts to getting a degree in the university.

"We, as a university, place great emphasis on the quality of our students. There is a strict procedure and process before an applicant is accepted to do his PhD in this university. We look at his academic qualifications as well as other relevant experience, if any."

"Depending on which area

The duration of study for a PhD is three years full-time at the minimum. It will take five to seven years if a student does it part-time. We do not just give away PhD to people.

Prof Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) vice-chancellor

of research he wants to pursue, we will appoint the relevant faculty to take him in," Khairuddin said during the university's Ramah Tamah Aidilfitri.

Khairuddin also pointed out that an applicant would also have to prepare a research proposal and a committee would evaluate the proposal to decide whether he had the ability

and standard to do a PhD. He said the university would only allow him to register as student if the committee was satisfied.

"The duration of study for a PhD is three years full-time at the minimum. It will take five to seven years if a student does it part-time. We do not just give away PhD

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Pelajar antarabangsa Unimas berambih di Santubong



MEMA... Para pelajar antarabangsa berambih di Santubong Unimas.

UNIVERSITI Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) telah menerima 26 pelajar antarabangsa untuk mengikuti program pasca sarjana di Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) mengikut program Homestay Pelajar Antarabangsa yang berlangsung selama tiga hari di Kampung Santubong baru-baru ini.

Semua pelajar berkenaan berasal dari Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India serta dua pelajar dari Semenanjung Malaysia.

Objektif penginapan program berkenaan adalah untuk mewujudkan satu ruang kepada pelajar antarabangsa Unimas, memberi khidmat kepada masyarakat setempat serta memperkenalkan mereka kepada budaya masyarakat di Sarawak.

Selain itu, ia juga memberi peluang kepada pelajar untuk berinteraksi dan membina rangkaian atau hubungan tanpa mengira latar belakang budaya dan negara.

Mahmud Hakeem Rahman, 27, dari Bangladesh, ketika ditemui berkata, program berkenaan memberi peluang kepadanya mengenai budaya dan adat resam penduduk setempat di negeri ini.

"Saya amat tertarik untuk mengikuti program ini kerana ia memberi peluang kepada

saya mendekati penduduk setempat serta merasakan pelbagai masakan menarik dan mungkin unik daripada penduduk tempatan.

Meskipun ini kali pertama saya menjayakan kaji ke Kampung Santubong, saya akan berusaha menjadi sebahagian daripada penduduk di kampung ini daripada keluarga angkat saya," katanya.

Melalui keluarga angkat kutanya, beliau akan cuba mempelajari pelbagai budaya dan kehidupan penduduk setempat serantau dari aspek penyediaan makanan.

Sedikit sebanyak program ini memberi gambaran kepada saya mengenai penduduk setempat terutama mengenai sambutan keluarga berkenaan kepada saya sebagai keluarga angkat mereka.

"Sudah pasti pengalaman yang berguna nanti akan saya kongsi bersama kawan dan keluarga yang berasal di India," katanya.

Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman, 27, dari Pakistan, berkata, beliau akan cuba mempelajari pelbagai budaya dan kehidupan penduduk setempat serantau dari aspek penyediaan makanan.

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THE BORNEO POST
Monday, March 15, 2010

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FOR PPKD MAMBONG: Khairuddin (second right) presents the mock cheque to Ernest, while (from left) Karthikan and Rajan look on.

Indian students donate to PPKD Mambong

KUCHING: In the spirit of Ponggal, a harvest festival, Indian students of University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) donated RM4,000 to Community-Based Rehabilitation Centre (PPKD) Mambong.

The mock cheque for the amount was presented to PPKD Mambong chairman Ernest Cyril De Run by vice-chancellor Professor Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid during Ponggal Nite at Unimas on Saturday.

Khairuddin said that he was touched by the gesture.

"I hope that you take the spirit of Ponggal into your studies," he said during the dinner at Dewan Unimas.

The festival to mark a bountiful harvest after a year of struggle and toil has been celebrated by the Indian community in

Sarawak for over a century.

Indian students of Unimas treated diners to entertainment based on the traditional and contemporary scene in India.

"This is the orientation programme for first year students," said event advisor Rajan Thangaveloo.

Attending Ponggal Nite 2010 were deputy vice-chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Associate Professor Madya Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman; dean of Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Professor Dr Narayanan Kulathuramaiyer; dean of Centre for Language Studies, Dr Soubakeavathi Rethinasamy; and event organising chairman Karthikan Segar.

Pelajar antarabangsa ikuti program homestay

KUCHING: Seramai 26 pelajar antarabangsa yang mengikuti program pasca sarjana di Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) mengikut program Homestay Pelajar Antarabangsa yang berlangsung selama tiga hari di Kampung Santubong baru-baru ini.

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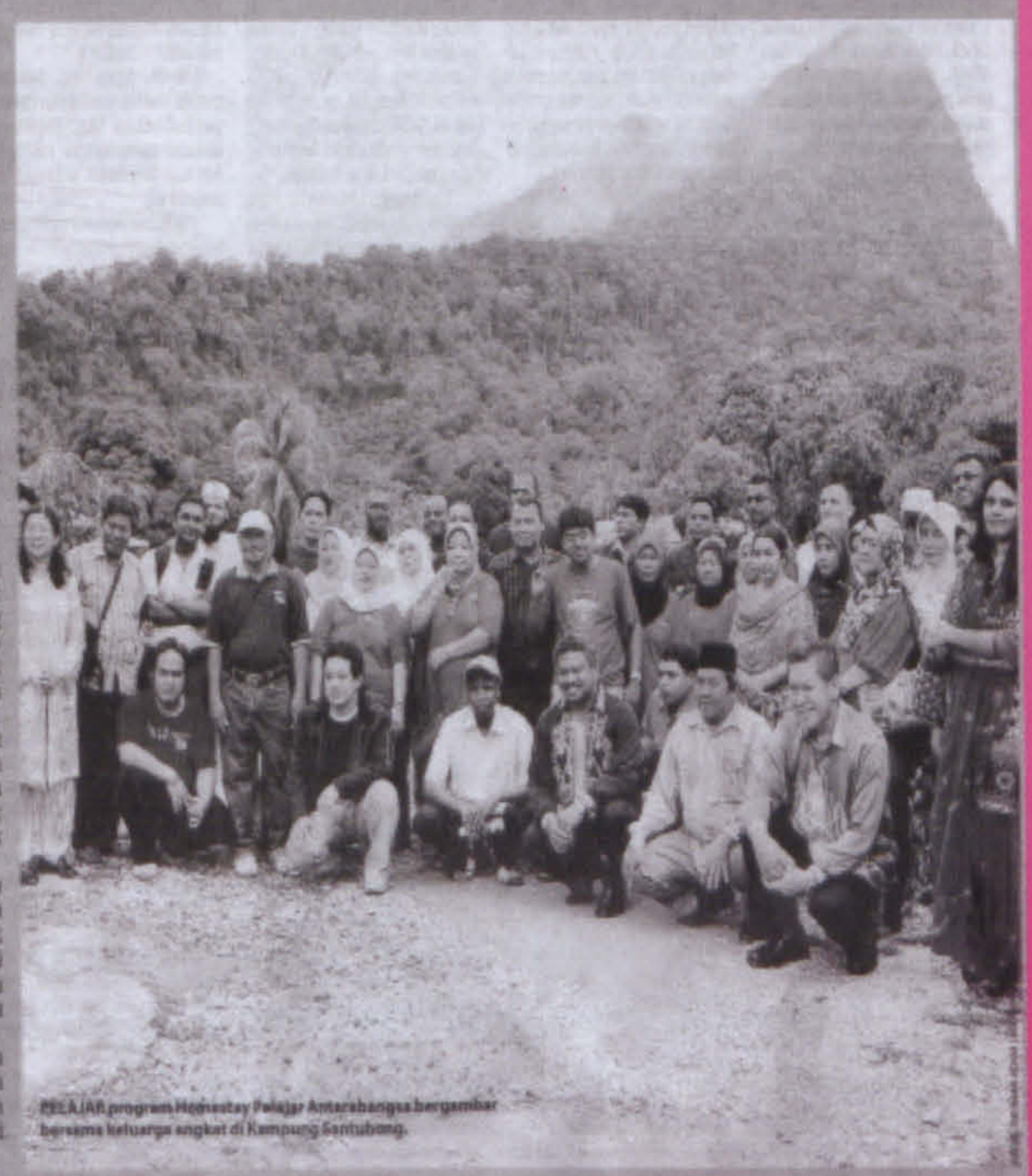
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PELAJAR program Homestay Pelajar Antarabangsa bergambar bersama keluarga angkat di Kampung Santubong.



Research and Postgraduate Studies in the Engineering Faculty

**By Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Andrew Ragai Henry Rigit,
(Postgraduate and Research),
Faculty of Engineering**

Research in the engineering faculty comprises three major types, namely fundamental/basic research, applied research and experimental development. The research activities in the faculty are further classified into six research niche groups, namely:

- Energy,
- Infrastructure development and management,
- Microelectronics system design,
- Computer and communication technology,
- Advanced materials, and
- Manufacturing systems.

The main objective of these research niche groups is to allow for research convergence and the optimization of research resources. At the faculty level, a cluster-based approach to research is encouraged. As far as possible, the faculty desires research to be interdisciplinary in design and approach. Inter-faculty and inter-institutional research collaboration is encouraged since the sharing of expertise and techniques across disciplines and institutional boundaries shall eventually prove beneficial in adding value to research. It is preferred that each cluster-based research projects have a few postgraduate students (by research) attached to it. Working with principal researchers, the students derive their postgraduate theses from the research project. All research projects should have merit-based research scholarships and studentships for fieldwork to assist their postgraduate students financially throughout the duration of their studies.

In order to have synergy in some of the niche groups, the faculty has setup Center of Research Excellence on Energy and Environmental Engineering, or CORE³ in January 2008. The center will be strategically positioned to grab research opportunities that will be available from the new Sarawak's corridor of economic development, SCORE. During the year 2007-2008, the faculty members have secured a total of six eScience research grants from MOSTI, five fundamental research grants from MOHE, and two contract research grants from Malaysian Pepper Board. The total value of the 13 grants is RM1,476,002.00. The faculty is also honoured to received an annual research grant of USD15,000.00 from Osaka Gas, Japan, with the main objective of supporting our young lecturers to kick-start their research projects immediately after coming back from their study leave.

The faculty recognizes the following as concrete evidence of quality research output:

- Externally refereed publications,
- Presentation of research work at external conferences,
- Success in attracting further substantial research funding, and
- Supervision of research students to completion of their degree.

During the 12th convocation ceremony on 11th August 2008, the faculty is proud to produce a total of 11 postgraduate students, two with PhD and nine with Masters degree. This is the highest number ever produced by the faculty in any one year in its 15 years of existence. As of September 2008, the faculty has a total of 53 active postgraduate students by research, comprising of 11 PhD and 42 Masters students.

PRODUCTION OF SINGLE-CELL PROTEIN IN MODIFIED SAGO EFFLUENT

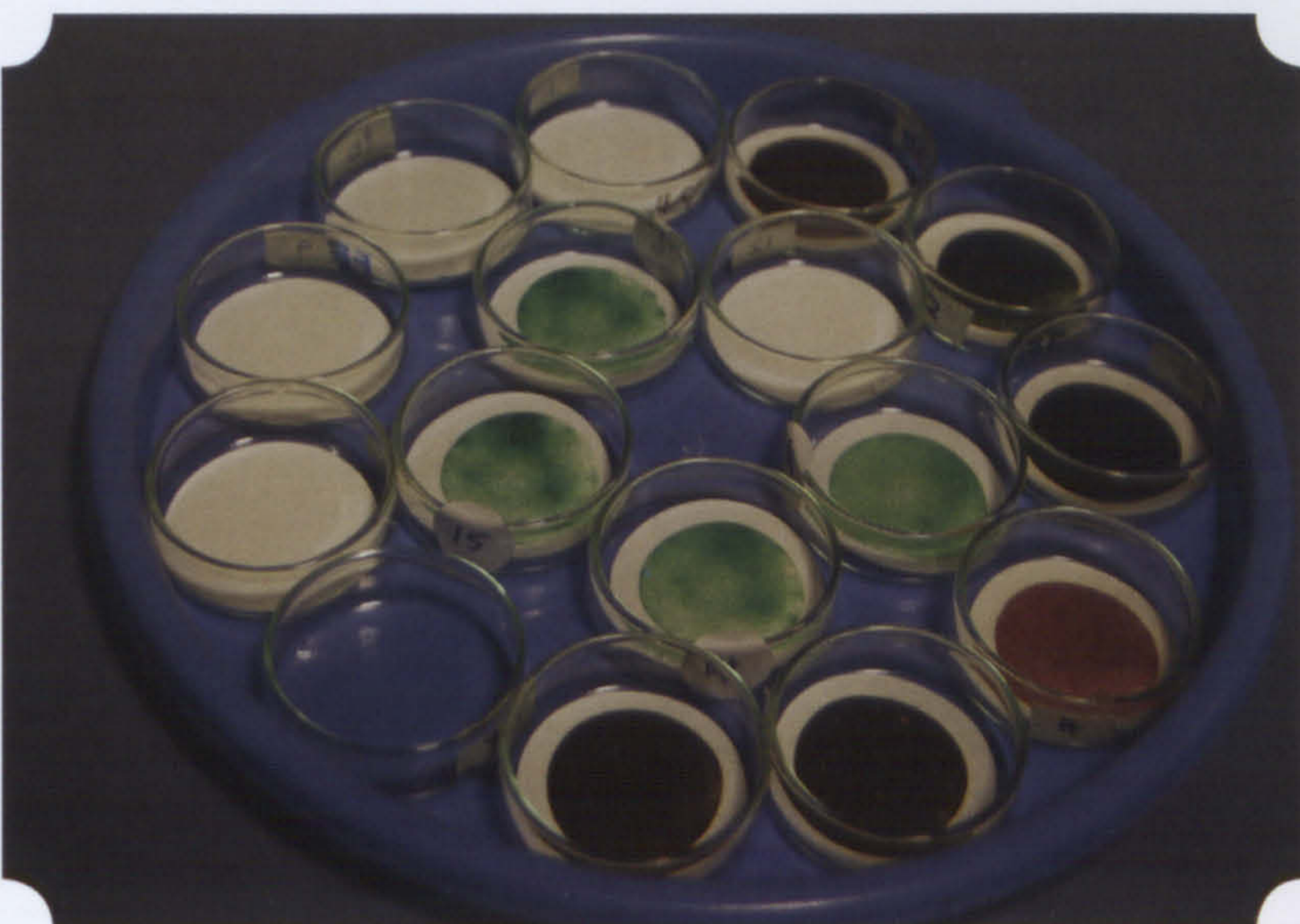
M. Manggi and K.B. Bujang. Faculty of Resource Science and Technology,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia



The feasibility of cultivating *Spirulina platensis* in sago effluent for the production of single cell protein (SCP) was studied between fresh filtered sago effluent (FSE) and modified sago effluent (MSE). MSE was produced by aerobically treating FSE with Bak-Wira MP300. Static culture of *Spirulina* for 36 days at pH 9.5 showed that biomass in MSE medium was 26% higher than in FSE although the biomass produced from both cultures were lower compared to the standard Zarrouk medium which has complete nutrients. The effects of various amendments of carbon (NaHCO_3), nitrogen (NaNO_3) and phosphorus (K_2HPO_4) were examined in both FSE and MSE cultures.

Evidently, carbon generates the highest effects on biomass production in all three supplements tested. FSE medium supplemented with $24\text{gL}^{-1} \text{NaHCO}_3$ produced the highest biomass concentration at $1,003 \pm 19 \text{mgL}^{-1}$, compared to MSE enriched with the same concentration of NaHCO_3 at $982 \pm 151 \text{mgL}^{-1}$. Conclusively for a static culture, the highest optimum biomass concentration was achieved using MSE with $20 \text{gL}^{-1} \text{NaHCO}_3$.

The feasibility of using a flow-culture system for mass-production of single-cell protein from *Spirulina platensis* was studied in MSE medium amended with $20\text{gL}^{-1} \text{NaHCO}_3$. The biomass obtained from the flow system was $1,450 \text{mgL}^{-1}$ or 21% higher than static or shake-flask culture.



Keywords: *Spirulina platensis*, sago effluent, single-cell protein

CULTURE OF PETRO-ALGA FOR PRODUCTION OF BIO-DIESEL

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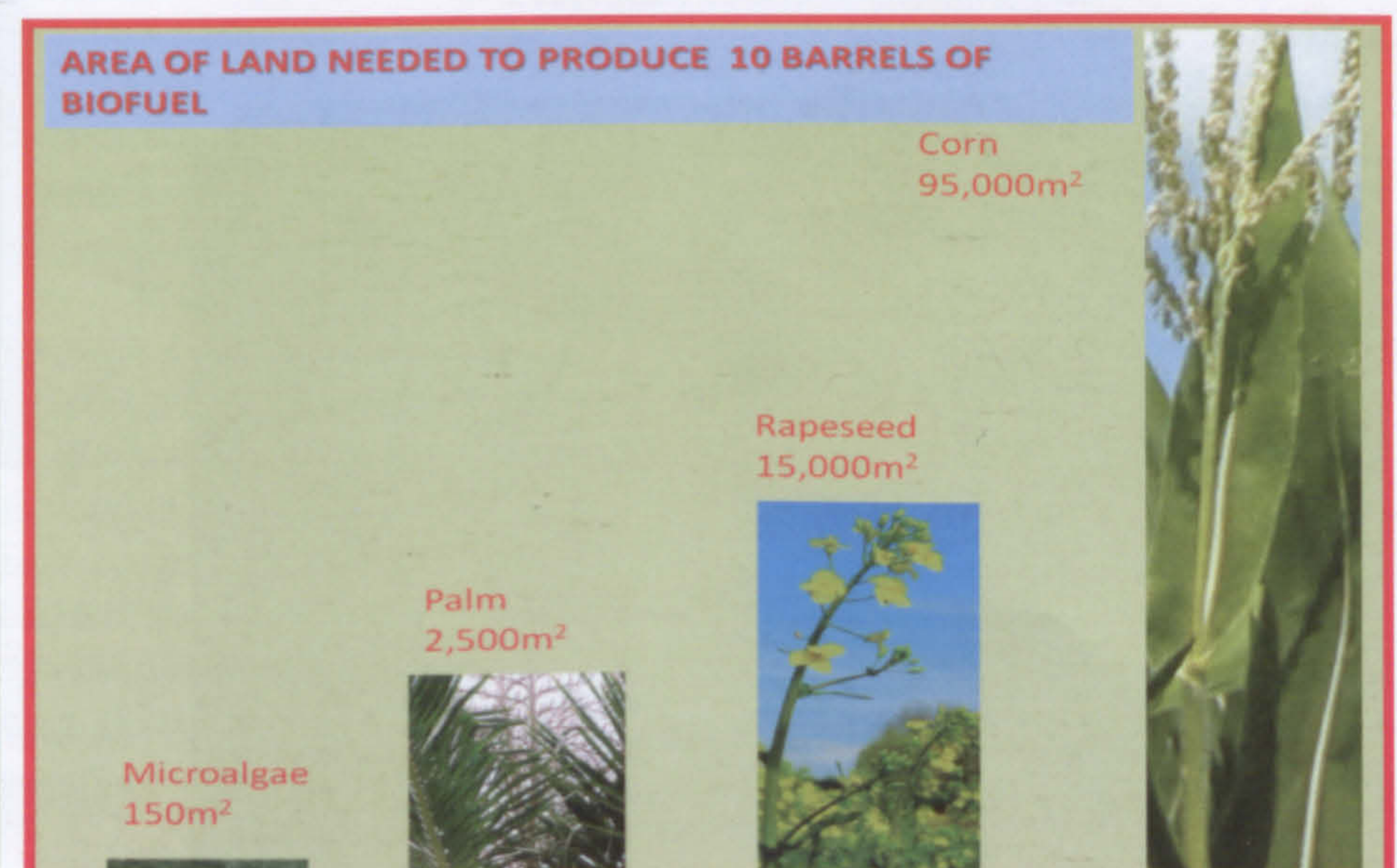
Biodiesel can be produced from various feedstocks including oil-bearing plant such as coconut, sunflower, rapeseed, canola, soya bean, palm oil and jatropha. Unlike most oil crops, algae are known to grow extremely rapid and many are exceedingly rich in oil. The biomass doubling times during exponential growth is as short as 3.5 hour. Oil content in algae can exceed 80% by weight of dry biomass. The current interest in the utilization of alga as an efficient producer of lipid for biodiesel is the best choice since it does not interfere with food supply. Microalgae are normally selected due to their extremely efficient biomass producing ability and also the energy-rich storage lipid which is a useful product for conversion to biofuel. Although an algal cultivating facility requires substantial initial capital, but on a per ton of fuel produced basis, this is lower when compared to both palm and jatropha which only produces annually, require large area of fertile farm lands and time to reach maturity. An alga farm can be constructed within weeks so the return obtained will be much faster. Production of biodiesel from an algal farm is about 14,000 gal/acre, compared to palm at 579 gal/acre, and jatropha at 300 gal/acre.

Our preliminary research at UNIMAS is focused on maximizing lipid yield from the microalga *Scenedesmus dimorphus*. The alga is able to grow in organic medium in the laboratory under constant aeration. This mixotrophic alga will be cultivated outdoor in and their biomass harvested by electrical flocculation.

Keywords : *Scenedesmus dimorphus*, biodiesel, lipid, petro-algae, biofuel.



Production of biodiesel from a micro-algae farm is about 14,000 gal/acre, compared to palm at 579 gal/acre, and jatropha at 300 gal/acre.



Source: www.sbae-industries.com

Do postgraduate students need to publish?

Only academics in RUs need to publish. Postgraduate students just want a degree so that they can get a better job or earn more. Supervisors have enough on their hands supervising their thesis, needless to mention going through drafts of their amateurish papers. Perhaps so. However, allow me to talk about the benefits postgraduate students gain from attempts to publish.

First, publications affirm the value of the postgraduate work. It will not just be the supervisor, or in lucky cases, the faculty and university, singing praises of the thesis. It will be the international research discourse community who sees a value in the contribution to knowledge because by the time a paper is published, the gatekeepers of academic research standards have let it through. If the paper is rejected, the postgraduate students would have benefitted from the free-of-charge feedback given by journal editors and reviewers!

Second, when postgraduate students publish their work, it makes them members of the research community in their field. They are no longer working in a vacuum because other researchers may write to them and ask them about their research. They learn to connect with other researchers who may be working on the same research problem but from a different perspective or using other methods. The knowledge they read in papers becomes alive, and this perspective helps them to make better sense of their research.



By Dr. Ting Su Hie
Centre for Language Studies

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Third, publishing builds the confidence of postgraduate students. They have joined the ranks of those revered names they see on journal papers which they print out to read. Try asking any postgraduate student who has presented a conference paper or, better still, published a paper. You can see the shine of joy on their faces. That image of my Masters student is imprinted in my mind, and it encourages me to do all I can to see more of others experiencing this affirmation of self-esteem.

But it is not only the postgraduate students who benefit. When postgraduate students publish and the name of the university appears as their affiliation, the university moves a notch higher in its research profile. This in turn may attract more postgraduate students and researchers to the university because it is testimony of a vibrant research culture and a good learning environment.



Code-switching Practices of Secondary School English and Science Teachers in the Classroom

By David Then Chen On



The study examined the code-switching practices of secondary school English and Science teachers in the classroom. Both observational and interview data were obtained for analysis. The results showed that the code-switching in English and Science lesson was different in nature. English teachers primarily reiterated messages, addressed specific students more often than Science teachers, and language other than the language of instruction for personalisation and objectivisation. However, the Science teachers mainly quoted from students' response and written texts in their teaching. Analysis of the functions of code-switching revealed co-occurrence of functions which had not been highlighted in previous studies on code-switching functions. For example, the repeated use of reiteration is linked to the salience of the message and the reiteration-quotation sequence is used to incorporate student responses into the class discussion. All the teachers in the study reported code-switching although they voiced reservations about the acceptability of code-switching in terms of policy and language learning concerns.



Linguistic Analysis of Spoken Discourse in Lecture Introduction

By Jacinta Yeo Jiin Yih

The study investigated the structure and language features of lecture introduction for core courses in the university setting. The analysis of 47 lecture introductions revealed a common pattern across disciplines in the manner in which lecturers recapped the content of the previous lecture to connect it to the lecture of that day. The three main clusters of lecture introductions are those focusing on multiple activation of prior knowledge, frequent interaction with students and discipline-specific activities. To activate students' prior knowledge, the lecturers were found to use the first person pronoun 'we' extensively to indicate different referents, which ranged from themselves, the students and the lecturer and the students. In a setting where the first and second person pronouns have specific referents, this expanded usage of 'we' may create confusion but the students in the study knew when the questions were meant for them. Further analysis would focus on the types of questions used in the lecture introduction.

Assessment Practices of Secondary School English Language: An investigation in Kuching, Sarawak

By Ch'ng Looi Chin



This study aims to examine the English language teachers' current formal assessment practices in lower secondary schools in Kuching. Extensive structured interviews were carried out on 72 Lower secondary English language teachers with a minimum of 2 years of teaching experience from 24 randomly selected schools. Relevant documents such as test papers, marking schemes and assessment guidelines were also collected for further analysis. The findings from this study revealed that a majority of the teachers conducted formal assessments mainly due to the requirements of the school and the ministry. Most of the assessments were conducted to familiarise students with the public examination format with little attention on using them as a tool to inform their pedagogical needs. The study has succeeded in uncovering teachers' procedural patterns in carrying out each assessment and provided useful indication on the need for proper training and intervention to assist the teachers.

Language attitudes of Chinese speakers in Kuching, Sarawak

By Puah Yann Yann



Past research have found more positive attitudes towards standard languages than vernacular languages but there has been less attention on comparison of attitudes towards vernacular languages. In a multilingual speech community where various standard and vernacular languages are used, members may share a common broader sociopolitical and economic setting but differ in language norms emanating from specific historical backgrounds of their specific speech communities. In this study, an attempt is made to compare the attitudes of Chinese speakers, Hokkien and Foochow in particular, towards their vernacular languages and Mandarin. A triangulation of data collection techniques encompassing questionnaire, matched guise technique and interviews will be used to obtain insights into the language attitudes of the participants.

Language Use between Stall Owners and Customers in a Transactional Domain

By Kimberley Lau Yih Long



The everyday activity of buying and selling, which appears mundane and routine, is a reservoir of linguistic information which provides insight into the language choice dynamics and norms of the larger multilingual speech community. This study focuses on language use in a traditional cake stall, one of the sub-domains of the transactional domain. Audio recordings and observations of transactional encounters were analysed for various aspects of language use in the exchange of goods. The preliminary results showed that the common languages used in the transactions included Foochow, Mandarin, Bazaar Malay, Hokkien, Bahasa Iban, Bahasa Melayu, with a fair amount of code-switching and non-verbal communication. The results also indicated that there were four types of transactions, characterised by different staging of the transactional encounter. Further analysis will be carried out to determine the features of language use at various stages of the transactional encounter.

A Master degree anyone?

By Dr. Hew Cheng Sim
Faculty of Social Science



On the 29th July 2009, Associate Professor Dr. Hew Cheng Sim, Deputy Dean (Postgraduate Studies and Research) of the Faculty of Social Sciences called a meeting of all final year students who have CGPA of 3.0 and above. A total of 35 students from all the six programmes in the Faculty were invited. Twenty five students turned up and half of these were from the development and planning programme and labour and industrial relations programme. Dr. Hew said that in the current competitive job market, a basic social science degree is no longer enough. We need to value add with a further degree. She explained the two different types of Masters degree programmes in the Faculty and the requirements of each. However, she focused her discussion on the Masters by research programme. Dr. Hew outlined the four research areas/strengths of the Faculty and argued that Sarawak presents unique opportunities to do research.

She addressed the concerns of the students regarding financial commitment in further studies and clarified that part of the strategy to attract postgraduate students to UNIMAS was the zamallah (scholarship). Dr. Hew explained the fee structure of a Masters degree by research and what could be expected of the zamallah. She encouraged students from Sarawak in particular to think seriously about continuing their studies in UNIMAS. Of the 25 students who turned up for the meeting, half were thinking about doing a further degree and four of these were from Sarawak. Dr. Hew ended the meeting by asking the students to give the idea of a Masters degree in UNIMAS further thought.





SLUSE Joint Field Course 2010 in Lundu

By SLUSE Programme Coordinator

SLUSE Master Programme is a coursework programme offered by Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, and Faculty of Social Science, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) that leading to two master degrees, Master in Environmental Science and Master in Environmental Management. The programme will celebrate its 10 year anniversary this year since the commerce of programme in 2000. The programme is implemented based on the model of SLUSE program initiated by Danish Consortium of Universities, University of Copenhagen and Roskilde Univeristy.

One of the highlight of the UNIMAS SLUSE programme is the joint field course participated by the Malaysian and Danish SLUSE students at selected villages in Sarawak. The joint field course in 2010 was held from 6 to 16 March at four Bidayuh Lara and Salako villages in Lundu District, namely, Kg Kendaie, Kg. Biawak, Kg. Sebako and Kg. Pueh. After nearly two hours of journey from Kuching, all students arrived at the assigned villages in Lundu. Students are welcomed by the villagers with traditional dances performance and local cuisine. Students were hosted at the community hall or villages house arranged by the villagers.

With the assistance of local interpreter and villagers, the students carried out their research activities at the villages. They carried out GPS and community mapping, transect walk, PAR (Participatory Action Research), Participatory rural appraisal (PRA), questionnaire and interview with the villagers during the 10 days stay. They also collected water samples from the water reservoir and several other locations in the villages. Soils sampling at the plantation and orchard, vegetation and animal survey at the surrounding forest were also conducted by the students to answer some of the research questions in their study.

After nine days of round the clock activities at the four villages, the students presented their researches findings at Lundu District Council. The event also was attended by the Opar State Assemblyman, Mr Ranum ak Mina, the Head of Community, Mr. London ak Tasin and headmen from the four villages. The researches findings were well received by the community's leaders. They expressed their sincere thanks to the students for valuable feedback and hope the students will revisit the villages in the very near future.



CGS Activities

(curtain raiser in 2010)

Postgraduate Visitation Programme

CGS conducted visit to various places of interest in and around Kuching. This program aims to provide an opportunity for postgraduate students from other nation, West Malaysia and even Sarawakians the opportunity to visit various places of interest in and around Kuching during their stay at Unimas. It also aims to develop friendships and a bond between postgraduate students of various faculties, nations and creed.



1st visit to Serikin on 30th January 2010



3rd visit to DUN/Kg. Gersik/Kuching Waterfront on 20th March 2010



2nd visit to Vase Factory & Taman Sahabat on 6th March 2010



4th visit to Jong's Crocodile Farm & Zoo, on 10th April 2010



Roadshow

CGS joined others in promoting its graduate via Postgraduate Education Fair 2010 in Kuching and Peninsular. Many of the visitors expressed their interest to further their studies in Masters and PhD in UNIMAS. Many of them have applied to enrol as Masters and PhD students. The centre's **officials** have diligently and successfully gave clear information of the programmes offered by the varsity.



Spring Shopping Mall on 15 - 17 January 2010
(UNIMAS with Community)



Coursework Program Open Day, on 17 April 2010
(CTF1, UNIMAS)



Mid valley Exhibitions Centre, K.L on 16 - 18 April 2010
(12th PGEF)



Internal Auditor
(Preparing for MQA visit)



SNAPSHOTS of activities at Graduate Studies 2009

Pusat Khidmat Maklumat Akademik
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK



International Postgraduate Gathering on 19th October 2009



The 3rd Kulim Postgraduate Expo 2009 at Dewan Bandaran Kulim, Kedah on 25 & 26 July 2009



6th Penang Career & Postgraduate Expo 2009 on 14th & 15th November 2009 at Penang International Sport Arena (PISA)



International Nite 2009 on 20th November 2009



Postgraduate Students Meeting 2009 26th June 2009




International Homestay And Community Service 2009 at Kpg. Santubong 4th - 6th December 2009



Manual Proses Kerja on 14th & 15th December 2009



Coursework Registration on 28th & 29th December 2009



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