New Students Intake September 2016/2017

FIAT received a batch of new student intake, which takes place on 28th of August 2016. A total number of 251 students have registered for various programs at FIAT and the list as follows: 41 students for Food Security program (SBF), 53 students for Husbandry Science program (SBH), 58 students for Agro - technology program (SBL), 45 students for Product Development Technology program (SBP) and 54 students for Bio-industrial Technology program (SBT). The new students joined orientation activities for one week, handled by facilitators selected among senior students. This session was held for the new students in order to make them familiar with UMK Jeli Campus surrounding and also all the regulations applied in UMK.

On 30th August 2016, one session for all new students was held at Dewan Utama, UMK Jeli Campus, from 2.00 pm till 5.00 pm. It involved all the academicians and administrators of FIAT, with the students. Our Dean, Dr. Fatimah had given talks to students regarding FIAT information, especially about academic affairs. There was also Q and A session between the new students and the Head of Programs. FIAT will organize more meetings with the students in order to familiarized them with academic regulations in UMK.
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AND COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UMK AND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, INDIA

BY: DR. PASUPULETI VISWESWARA RAO

The workshop and research collaborative discussions was organized by FIAT as a part of MoU activities between UMK and ANGRAU which was signed on November 2015. The main aim was to share knowledge and ideas to collaborate in broad range of research which provides the exponential benefits for both universities.

The workshop was started on 8th of August with a meeting with the academic staff. Dr. Fatimah Kayat as the Dean conveyed a speech on the strengths and possible collaborations between these two universities. Four of the delegates from ANGRAU, India have focused the discussion on the expertise research areas. Dr.N.V. Naidu, Director of Research, ANGRAU presented the way forward for the research to be carried out between UMK and ANGRAU. Dr. Prabhu Prasadhini, Director for International Relations, ANGRAU mainly focused on strengthening the networking and linkages between UMK and ANGRAU for the benefits of the students in the future. Dr. Veeraraghavaiiah, Dean for Postgraduate Studies, ANGRAU, explained about the student and faculty mobility at the level of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Dr. TNVKV Prasad, a Senior Scientist of ANGRAU presented on the nanotechnology and its aspects for a better world especially for agriculture. Dr. Pasupuleti Visweswara Rao addressed the gathering about the benefits of nanotechnology in the medicinal plants research, natural products research and finally linking it to the human wellbeing.

“The main aim was to share knowledge and ideas to collaborate in broad range of research which provides exponential benefits for both universities”

During the second day workshop Assoc. Prof. Dr. Seri Intan Mokhtar, the Deputy Dean for research and Innovation addressed clearly about the grants to be applied, the research to be carried out and publications to be published with the research network between UMK and ANGRAU. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Azlina Ibrahim explained the aspects towards entrepreneurial outputs with the research and commercialization. The two days workshop on the collaborative research was successful and achieved its objectives.

OMUA 2016 [BY: DR. LIEW JENG YOUNG]

A Public University Mathematical Olympiad competition 2016 (OMUA2016) was held concurrently in UMK PC and Jeli campuses on the 24th September 2016. This competition was organized by the Mathematical Research Institution, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Undergraduate students from all public universities in Malaysia were eligible to take part in the competition. OMUA2016 consists of two levels including Qualifying round and Final round.

OMUA2016 had received an overwhelming response from the FIAT students. Over fifty second year and third year students took part in the competition.

All Participants were required to answer six mathematical problems on multiple branches of mathematics within three hours in the OMUA2016. Five top UMK scorers of OMUA2016 will compete with other contestants in UPM on 26 November 2016.

Dr. Nurul Syaza, Dr. Leony Tham, Dr. Azfi Zaidi and Dr. Liew were the secretariats of OMUA2016 for the UMK Jeli Campus. UMK PC campus’s secretariats included Dr. Mohd Asrul Hery, Pn Nur A’mirah and Pn Nurdalihah. Kudos to the secretariats for running this event successfully.
UMK 6TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

BY: FAIZ NUR HAKIM

The 6th UMK Convocation ceremony was held from 24th till 27th of September 2016, at Hotel Grand River View, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. For FIAT students, the number of students that involved with the convocation is 318 students, and the details as follows; 76 students from Husbandry Science program (SBH), 79 students from Agro-technology program (SBS), 67 students from Product Development Technology program (SBP) and 96 students from Bio-industrial Technology program (SBT). The session for FIAT students was on 26th of September (for SBP program) and 27th of September (for SBH, SBS and SBT program).

During the convocation ceremony also, one FIAT students, Devi d/o Nallapan from SBT program has been awarded “Anugerah Pelajar Diraja” because of her excellence in her academic and actively involved in various extra-curricular activities held by UMK. FIAT is very proud and happy with her achievement and we hope that, she can be a role model for FIAT students.

GO T & U II PROGRAM (25TH SEPTEMBER 2016)

BY: ASSOC. PROF. DR. LEE SEONG WEI

In September 2016, two representatives of FIAT, Associate Prof Dr. Lee Seong Wei and Mr. Mohd Mahmud attended the Program GOT & U II Series held at UTM, Johor Bharu. The Graduate on Time (GOT) programme was conducted for both the research supervisors and the prospective research supervisors at the Public University Malaysia.

The objective of this program is to instill awareness regarding the importance of GOT among supervisors and prospective supervisors in sharing the same responsibility so that the government’s goal in the Malaysia Education Blueprinting (MEB) 2015-2025 via innovation ecosystem can be achieved. The second objective of this program is to share the supervision strategies to ensure the postgraduate research students achieving GOT.

The agenda of this program is to assure that every student graduates successfully as a results of programs and incentives like MyMaster, MyPhD, MyPhD Industri and also scholarships offered by the IPT.

The program speakers were Prof. Dr. Zaidatun Tasir, Prof Dr. Naomie Salim, Prof Datin Dr. Ruzy Suliza Hashim, Prof Dr. Suhaimi Abdul Talib and Prof Dr. Abdul Latif Ahmad. Topics discussed include PHD GOT: current scenario, Mentoring for GOT, Eco-system for GOT, What it takes to GOT, and Good Supervision Practice towards GOT. The program was concluded with forum MYTH vs Reality of GOT. The third series of U GOT III Series program is going to be held in next year.

OFF-CAMPUS CLASS SESSION FOR ISSUES IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

BY: ASSOC. PROF. DR. PALSAN

Off-campus class sessions as part of blended learning are introduced for the first time to cater for the first batch of students from Product Development Technology undergoing industry placement opting the 3+1 mode. The classes were conducted at UMK Learning Center, Technology Park Malaysia, Bukit Jall, Kuala Lumpur on 1st-2nd October 2016. The two days’ classes fulfilled the first part of 14 hours of student learning time requirement for lectures and tutorials for FAT4142 Issues in Product Development course to meet the face to face learning time requirement under blended learning. The students were briefed on the course flow, the need and importance for them to allocate specified time for on-line activity participation and importantly, self or independent learning time. The course tasks were also assigned to the students. In contrast to their friends studying on campus, the assignments are inclined towards their industry placement and job scope areas with emphasis on issues related to product development. Course wise, the students related well and felt FAT4142 Issues in Product Development became more relevant as every aspect of product development is and can be an issue ranging from product development processes, market research and consumer preferences, innovation and product innovation development, culture, health, additives, packaging, product design, labelling as well as branding.
PROMOTING PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY FIAT AT SCHOOLS AROUND KELANTAN

BY: DR. CH’NG HUCK YWIH

A one day visit (29 November 2016) to the SMK Kubang Bemban that took place in Pasir Mas, Kelantan was aimed at exposing, guiding, and promoting the university programs offered by Faculty of Agro Based Industry (FIAT), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Jeli Campus to the students who are currently studying Form Six (Pre-U). Dr. Zul Ariff and Dr. Ch’ng Huck Ywih were two FIAT representative involved in the school visit. A total of 40 Form Six students and two teachers were present during the event. During the beginning of the event, a teacher from SMK Kubang Bemban gave a welcoming speech to welcome the representative from UMK Jeli Campus. After the welcoming speech, Dr. Zul briefly introduced the history, background, vision, and mission of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan. During the briefing, Dr. Zul exposed the students to the faculties available in Universiti Malaysia Kelantan. He also introduced the history of FIAT and the facilities available to the students. After the briefing, Dr. Ch’ng Huck Ywih proceed with the second part of the briefing. Dr. Ch’ng started the briefing by asking the students about their dreams and their desired directions after their Form Six study. He then exposed the students to the list of public and private universities and colleges available in Malaysia. After that, the students were introduced with the five programs (namely Bachelor of Applied Science (Agrotechnology) with Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Bioindustrial Technology) with Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Product Development) with Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Husbandry Science) with Honours, and Bachelor of Applied Science (Food Security) with honours) offered by FIAT. After a short tea break, the students and teachers were available financial support of each respective program offered by FIAT. After a short tea break, the students and teachers were brought to visit the laboratories, lecture halls, library, and garden tunnel in Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Jeli Campus. This is to expose the students to the university’s surroundings, to create interest, and motivate them to further their studies to FIAT.

POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOPS SERIES 2016

A series of postgraduate workshop organised by the postgraduate committee of Faculty of Agro Based Industry (FIAT), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Jeli Campus was aimed to provide the specific requirements of postgraduate-level articles, reports and theses to the postgraduate students in FIAT.

The first postgraduate workshop (Effective Proposal Writing) was held on 6 October 2017. The speaker of the workshop was Datuk Dr. Beatrice Beth Baikan. This session discussed on developing appropriate research questions, conceptualising information surrounding a topic, and selecting a project scope that matches student’s time frame. This workshop also discussed strategies can be used by students to begin the planning and drafting of a research proposal. The strategies discussed during the workshop include developing preliminary research questions, creating coherence between parts of the proposal, and revising for errors that prompt confusion or misreading. Besides, this workshop also addressed strategies and approaches that all students can use to organise their literature, draft their review, and revise their review, which include effectively gathering a body of research, criteria for selecting literature, and approaches for organising literature reviews.

The second workshop, Thesis Writing and Graduate on Time was held on 17 November 2016 by Associate Prof. Dr. Lee Seong Wei. This session provided students with strategies for writing their Masters and PhD theses. Students were taught the purpose of each thesis section and how to logically organise and present information and arguments. This workshop also provided students with general guidelines for paragraph structure for the Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results and Discussion, and Conclusion sections to clearly and succinctly contextualise, convey and support scientific research. Besides, this workshop also guided students to structure their revision process to become more effective at revising their theses. Dr. Lee addressed various writing processes to help students become attuned to where they are most likely to make mistakes. Students were also encouraged to develop their own revision checklist, based on their experience with their own writing, as the workshop covered organisational, sentence-level, and surface level errors. Last but not least, Dr. Lee also guided the students on how to arrange their time effectively in order to prepare for their viva-voce and eventually graduate on time.

Overall, the students were very satisfied with the workshops organised and such workshops such as effective scientific research journals writing, experiment designs and data analysis etc in the coming semesters.
AGX’16- STRENGTHENING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

BY: LILI AMIRA HAZINAN

The 3rd Agriculture Expo, AGX’16 is a three-days event started from 3rd - 5th November 2016, and was launch by Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Hamad Kama Piah. It is an event that folks in the agriculture industry around Kelantan especially in Jeli will not want to miss. From informative educational session to over exhibitor, entrepreneurs and thousands of visitors, this expo also offer many entertaining activities for all ages of visitor to enjoying themselves while being there.

The AGX’16 set up various programs and activities conjunction with the theme which is sustainable agriculture including exhibition, sales of agriculture and food based product, auctions livestock, demonstration of planting and organic fertilizers, Agropreneur and Sustainable Agriculture Practices by Islamic Perspective forum, talk, herbal soap and souvenirs production workshop, cultural night and other various games and competitions. The activities cover most of the agriculture area of scope such as livestock, animal, ecosystem, agriculture and agro-based products.

The Agriculture expo, AGX has been held successfully and continuously for the last 4 years and this year FIAT had a special collaboration with other PTjs such Pejabat Pentadbiran Kampus Jeli (PPKJ) and Faculty of Earth Science (FSB). About 223 staffs with 96 students were participating as AGX’16 committee member.

Compare with previous organization, this year’s expo held at UMK Jeli Campus not only attracted more than 70 entrepreneurs but also received exhibitors from Empower ECER, KWSP, Lembaga Nanas, TEKUN, Jabatan Pertanian Jeli, KESEDAR, Tourism MORTAC, CCRC Jeli. VETSA Club from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agro Based Industry and Faculty of Earth Science to promote their product and services to the public. Exhibitor from Klinik Bergerak, FPV also joined this expo for the first time.

Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Hamad Kama Piah during his speech in AGX’16 Opening ceremony said, “This is (AGX’16) also a part of UMK’s effort to contribute towards Jeli development as a leader in the agricultural and tourism industries as well as to create public awareness on the important of agro-environment to sustain agricultural productivity”
AGROPARK TREE PLANTING DAY

BY: LILI AMIRA HAZINAN

On 19th November 2016, about 270 students of third and fourth year of Faculty of Agro-Based Industry (FIAT) with 30 staff had join in-campus tree planting activity for the very first physical activity among all the FIAT members for this year. This event was organised by Agropark Unit assisted by MPP and Agro club members.

Each group of participant planted various kind of fruit trees such as mangosteen, soursop and mulberry alongside of the peripheral road at new site of Agropark located near at Kampung Gemang.

The purpose of the activity is intended not only for restore the beauty of surrounding but also to produce quality fruits which may contribute to income generating projects to FIAT. Meanwhile, the idea of mulberry planting around the slope is to help in preventing soil erosion, creating shade and providing food for animals. These activities are expected to provide an interesting and soothing environment to the users and visitors to Agropark.

KURSUS ANJAKAN ALTERASI SISWA 2016

BY: FAUZIE MD JUSOH

Kursus Anjakan Alterasi Siswa (KAAS) was held from 19 to 20 November 2016 at Tasik Pergau, Jeli Kelantan. The main objective of this event was to increase motivational awareness among selected undergraduate students of FIAT. This event was attended by 37 participants with 15 staffs of FIAT. Water confident, night walk and survival were examples of activities scheduled for these events beside in-group activities. Outdoor activities were assisted by Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat. Closing ceremony was officiated by Deputy Dean of Academic and Alumni, Prof. Madya Dr Noor Azlina Ibrahim.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING BRIEFING

BY: DR. LEONY THAM YEW SENG

The 2nd Industrial Training Briefing was held on 6th Dec 2016 from 1400 to 1345 at Dewan Utama, UMK Campus Jeli. It was the last face-to-face briefing with FIAT’s final year students batch before they leave the campus to undergo a 16 weeks internship at various companies and organisations in Malaysia.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lee, Deputy Dean (Research and Innovation) started the talk by giving the students benefits of continuing postgraduate study at UMK. The university encourages the undergraduate students to continue their academic journey at UMK by giving special discount on their tuition fee.

Then, Mr. Faiz from the Dean Office spent 15 minutes to brief the students the issues arised by previous batch that causing their graduation status halted.

Dr. Leony continued the briefing by providing the students regarding the current status of secured company and the list of tasks to be accomplished before and during their internship. The students were reminded that the most important resource to smoothly completing their industrial training is to strictly follow the instruction listed in the Industrial Training Guideline Book.

Dr. Tan, later briefed the students about the ethics when they are in the industry. It is important to achieve 3A’ --- Attendance, Attitude and Appearance, plus 3'R' --- Responsible, Respect and (follow) Rules. Finally, Mr. Mohd who is the Faculty Industrial Training coordinator ended the briefing by emphasizing the importance of having the correct attitude during the students coming 16 weeks internship from middle Feb 2017 until early Jun 2017. He ended the briefing by saying that, the UMK students are UMK ambassador which influence the industry perception towards UMK whether it is either good or bad, is much depending on the students' performance.
AGE COUNCIL FGV-FIAT MEETING
BY: DR. LIEW JENG YOUNG

The meeting of AGE Council FGV-FIAT was held at 1600 on 8 December 2016. UMK staff present for the meeting were Prof Dato Dr. Ibrahim Che Omar (TNCPI, UMK), Dr. Fatimah Kayat (Dean of FIAT, UMK) and Associate Prof Dr. Lee Seong Wei (Deputy Dean of FIAT, UMK). Staff of the FGV attending were Dato Zakaria Arshad (CEO, FGV), Mr. Mohamad Saodi Husin (Vice President, FGV) and Mr. S. Palaniappan (Executive Vice President, FGV).

FGV, as part of FELDA Group is a Malaysia’s leading global agribusiness, where it is the world’s largest Crude Palm Oil (CPO) producer and the second largest Malaysian palm oil refiner. FGV focus spans SIX primary business clusters, which are (1) Palm Upstream and Downstream, (2) Rubber, (3) Sugar refinery, (4) R&D, (5) Trading & Marketing, and (6) Logistics & Others (TML).

Plantation management, 3 +1 program (3 years at university + 1 year in industry), research on consumer goods such as sensory test, to mention a few, are the areas that FGV and UMK can work together towards a knowledge economy. Of note, UMK will be inviting Dato Zakaria Arshad to hold the position of CEO at the faculty or Chairman Lecture Series (CLS).

Incidence of parthenium allergy in Kedah, Malaysia: It is the time to knockdown the problem
BY: PROF. DR. S. M. REZAUL KARIM

Parthenium weed (Rumpai Miang Mexico), an invasive environmental pollutant alien species, has been first detected in Malaysia in April 2013 by UMK researcher. In spite of control initiatives taken by the Plant Biosecurity Division of Department of Agriculture since early 2014 the weed has been increasing in density and spreading to new areas. The weed has now occupied the home gardens (Fig. 1), area adjacent to cattle farm, vegetable farms (Fig. 3), muslim cemetery (Fig. 4), banana plantations (Fig. 5), near public telephone booth (Fig. 6), near village cattle shed (Fig. 7). It has been creating more socio-economic problems, especially allergic reactions on the human body of the inhabitants of parthenium infested areas. Some information regarding health problem has also been published in the net and daily news. Moreover, the members of Parthenium Weed Research Group of UMK have recently identified five cases in Sungai Petani, Kedah where peoples are affected with parthenium allergy.

Fig. 1. Parthenium infesting home

FIAT NEW ACADEMIC STAF
1. Prof Dr Nik Marzuki bin Sidik
2. Dr Siti Nuurul Huda Mohammad Azmin
3. Dr Siti Roshayu Hassan
4. Dr Raja Ili Airina Raja Khalif
5. Cik Raimi Mohamed Redwan
6. Dr Maryana Mohd Nor
7. Dr Nur Anis Afifah Arzami
8. Dr Zubaidah Aimi Abdul Hamid
9. Dr Mohammad Mijanur Rahman
10. Pn Noor Hafizoh Saidan
Mr. Abdullah Ismail (63 yr.) is a retired army of Malaysian Naval Force, living in his own house at Kg. Haji Ngah, Sungai Petani. After retirement he started an agribusiness including rearing of goats and poultry at the back of his house. Unfortunately, patches of parthenium plants appeared in front of the goat shed. As he did not have any idea about bad effects of parthenium weed, he used his bare hands to uproot the parthenium plants. Eventually his both hands were infected with parthenium allergy (Fig. 7). At the beginning itching and swelling of palms and skin occurred followed by development of eczema after a few days.

Mrs. Rosyimah (50 yr) of Taman Sejahtera Rakyat, Kg. Tok Pawan, Sg. Petani said that parthenium has caused itchy and blisters on her hand when touched it for several times. She used warm water to treat the allergic reaction. After a week she got rid of the problem.

Who knows that more people will not suffer like them in future? Therefore, the authority of Malaysia should be more responsive and take appropriate measure to knockdown the problem before it became out of control.