

Faculty of Agro Based Industry – a faculty with international linkage

S. M. Rezaul Karim (rezaul@umk.edu.my), Faculty of Agro Based Industry, UMK, Jeli Campus

The faculty of Agro Based Industry (FIAT) is a science-based faculty of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, established in 2012. This faculty is situated in a very good forest garden of Jeli, Kelantan which is surrounded by hills and greenery. The faculty offers PhD and Master degrees along with undergraduate programs in Agricultural Science (Crop and vegetable production, Crop protection, Soil nutrient analysis, Livestock production and management, Fish production and management, Plant and animal genetics, Weed management, Tissue culture etc.) and Agro-based Industry (e.g. Post-harvest food processing, Product development, Microbial fermentation of food products, Biotechnology for crop improvement, Analysis of food quality, Nano materials for quality improvement etc.). Well-qualified and experienced lecturers from home and abroad are engaged in teaching and research with the students along with community services for the local peoples.

In addition to teaching and research, the FIAT lecturers are involved in the international programs and events to make the faculty move forward. RENPER is an international network related to poverty eradication established by UMK in 2010. It has been conducting international seminars in the member universities of the Asia Pacific region. The FIAT lecturers are directly involved in organizing some of these seminars in different countries. In 2015, 6th RENPER seminar was held at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Andha Pradesh, India where Dr. Muhammad Arifullah was the Joint Secretary of the organizing committee. He coordinated the issues and matters of foreign participants before and during the seminar.



In 2016, 7th RENPER seminar was held at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, Bangladesh in which Prof. Dr. S. M. Rezaul Karim was in charge of Secretary (Liason) of the organizing committee. He also maintained the linkages between foreign participants and BAU organizers for

smooth running of RENPER activities. During this seminar at BAU, Dr. Pasupuleti Visweswara Rao co-chaired a session of scientific paper presentation.



On 02 April 2017 there was a RENPER council meeting at UMK, Pengkelan Chepa, where the members from Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia attended the program. Prof. R. Karim, Dr. Arifullah and Dr. Rao were invited there to represent BAU (Bangladesh), SVU (India) and Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU, India) respectively. In the council meeting, Prof. R. Karim has been selected as one of the representatives of BAU for next three years.



The Asia Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS) is an international professional society of weed scientists of the Asia Pacific region. It organizes international conferences on Weed Science once in two years. The

forth-coming 29th APWSS Conference will be held at Kuching, Sarawak in 2019. Prof. R. Karim has been selected as Vice Chairman of the organizing committee of the conference.



To make the faculty well connected with overseas universities a good number of MoUs have been signed. A MoU between UMK and Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) has been signed by the respective authorities in 2014 in which Dr. Arifullah was the PIC (Person in Charge).



The first initiative for collaboration between these two universities was done in October 2016 by inviting ten professors from SVU to UMK, Jeli campus to explore the possibilities of joint research and publications through collaborative research. The invited guests and the FIAT lecturers shared their research experiences in a seminar held on 10-11 October, 2016 at FIAT, UMK. Dr. Rao was the PIC for completion of MoU between UMK and ANGRAU, India on 15 November 2015. He conducted a workshop at FIAT, UMK with four Professors from ANGRAU and FIAT lecturers on 8-9 September 2016. In that workshop a book with joint authorship has been drafted including chapters from lecturers of two universities.



Dr. Rao was also invited as a keynote speaker at the AgriNano 2015 conference held at Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), India in March 2015.



In 2016, the MoU between UMK and BAU (Bangladesh) has been signed by the respective authorities where Prof. R. Karim took the responsibilities of PIC.



After signing the MoU Prof. Karim initiated the first activity in the form of a workshop on Research Collaboration between UMK and BAU on 22 December 2016, where two professors from BAU were invited to share their research experiences with UMK lecturers held at FIAT, UMK. In the workshop, after mutual discussion some research topics were selected which will be expanded to research proposal soon for submission to the appropriate donor agencies.



We all are the ambassadors of the faculty and are representing our institution nationally and internationally.