

Rise of POPSIG's 1st University Webinar Roadshow 2019-2021

Times are challenging with the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. POPSIG University Physical Roadshow has been placed on hold since the last stop being held in Heriot-Watt University Malaysia on 4th March 2020 in compliance with the Malaysia's Movement Control Order (MCO), playing a part to the Covid-19 chain cut.

Yet POPSIG's core spirit mission to educate Malaysians with truths of palm oil in par with the latest 'Sawit Anugerah Tuhan' campaign by Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) has never been buried down while adapting to the new norm!

Thanks to POPSIG's University Roadshow core pillars Dr. Viknesh Andiappan and Mr. Vincent Tiang, also with great support from Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), continuous guidance from POPSIG's founder Ir. Qua Kiat Seng and assistance from POPSIG committees, POPSIG University Roadshow has successfully resurfaced online on 21st October 2020 carrying out the Roadshow virtually through webinars!

Thirst and hunger of students for more industrial exposure and knowledge had gathered seven universities from East Malaysia to join the 2 hours' webinar session from 9am to 11am which were from Curtin University Malaysia, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), UiTM Sarawak, University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu with total attendees of 101 pax!

It was great honour to have Pn. Sarafhana Dollah, Executive of Science and Environment Division as representative of MPOC, Ms. Liew Sin Lu, Desmet Ballestra's Head of Department of Process and Commissioning, Mr. Galau Melayong, Head of Sustainability of Sarawak Oil Palm Sdn. Bhd, Ir Qua Kiat Seng and Dr. Viknesh from POPSIG as speakers and panels of the day.

The first speaker was none other than our POPSIG founder, Ir Qua who gave the students a brief on POPSIG's history and roles carried by POPSIG in the industry to promote and share information and technology. It was an interactive session which proved that students had eyes on palm oil industry when most interactive question asked by Ir. Qua were able to get major accurate responses. Ir. Qua also emphasized and shared information regarding Industry 4.0 in palm oil industry to the students.

The next session was titled 'Malaysian Palm Oil Getting to Know Our Oil' which Pn. Sarafhana introduces the importance of palm oil in global context, origins of palm oil sector in Malaysia and the key agencies under MPIC in managing the industry (Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Malaysia Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC), and Malaysia Palm Oil Council (MPOC)). Apart from that, Pn. Sarafhana also shared general introduction on oil palm fruit, types of oil obtained with its health benefits and functions in the industry. She also emphasized on sustainability and conservation efforts which are very important in countering untrue claims on environmental harm of palm oil sector to the world. Lastly, she called upon students to be part of the MPOC's student ambassador program to raise more awareness regarding the industry among students.

Moving on the next agenda was a sharing on ‘The Role of Chemical Engineers in the Palm Oil Industry’ by Ms. Liew Sin Lu where she enlightened the students with the insights of palm oil processing, career opportunities, technical knowledge applied and skills required in the industry which is important for career growth. Before going into panel discussion session, Dr. Viknesh briefly covered the topic of ‘Why Get Chartered with IChemE’ which would help the students in having the idea of how to efficiently utilize the IChemE platform in leveling up their career.

Last but not least, students were given the opportunity to clear their doubts through the panel discussion. It was a fruitful session indeed where students were able to obtain insights through different perspectives in the industry. Various topics were covered including internship and career opportunities, skillsets required, challenges faced by the industry, health benefits of palm oil with its nutritional content and etc. It was a good chance which students received useful advice from all panels.

POPSIG 1st University Webinar Roadshow ended smoothly with success seed planting, educating another new batch of young generation! The next upcoming webinar roadshow would be on 19th of November 2020 with Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) & Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). Stay tune!

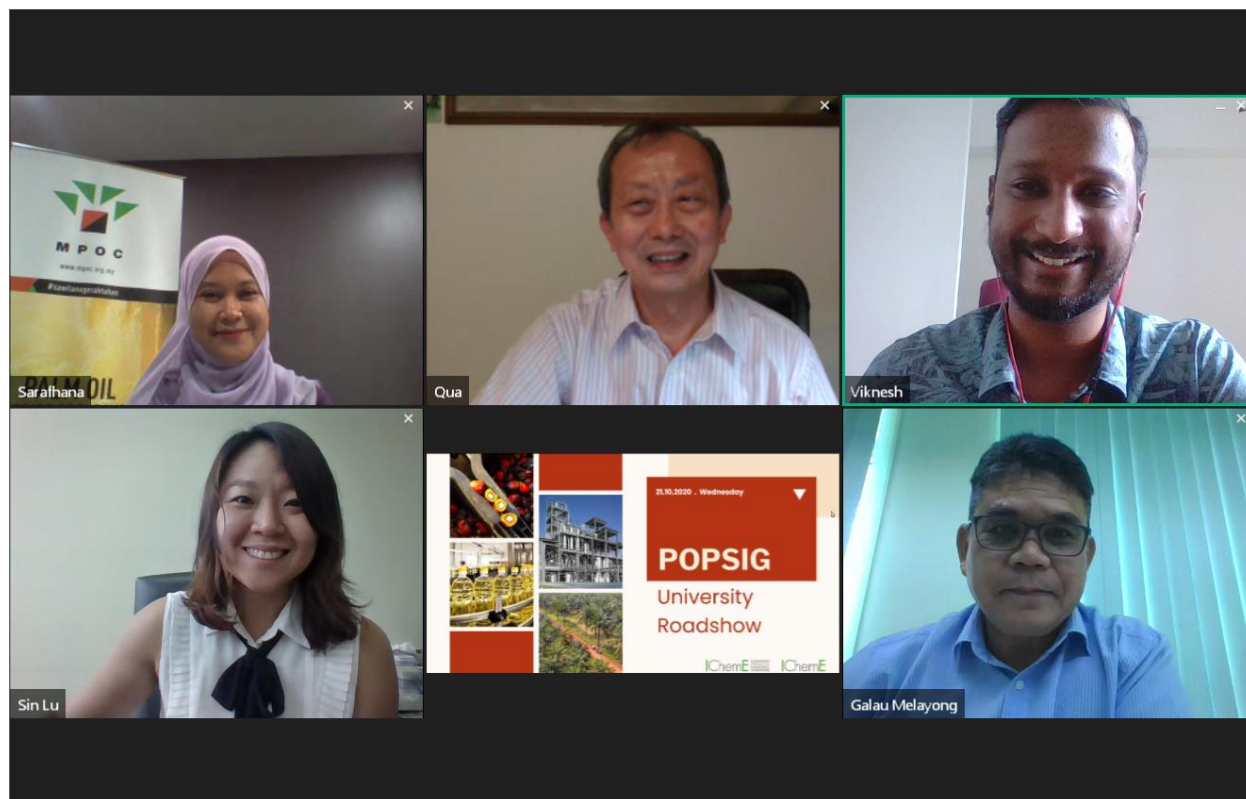


Figure 1: Speakers and Panels of POPSIG's 1st University Webinar Roadshow.

Starting top left with Pn. Sarafhana Dollah, Ir. Qua Kiat Seng and Dr. Viknesh Andiappa.. Bottom left with Ms. Liew Sin Lu. Bottom right with Mr. Galau Melayong.