FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Palm Oil Processing
Special Interest Group

ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON PALM OIL SUSTAINABILITY
ARPOS

POPSIG-ARPOS SEMINAR 2022

Roles of Palm Oil Industry in Achieving UN SDGs

THE GLOBAL GOALS

DATE: Monday 04 July 2022
TIME: 16:00-18:30 MYT (UTC+8)
PLATFORM: ZOOM (Fully Virtual)

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MONASH University MALAYSIA | MONASH INDUSTRY PALM OIL PLATFORM

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
The National University of Malaysia

Sime Darby YAYASAN

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Programme

Monday 04 July 2022
16:00 - 18:30 MYT (UTC+8)

16:00 - 16:05	Welcoming Remark
16:05 - 16:15	Opening Speech Dr Helena Varkkey, Universiti Malaya
16:15 - 16:30	Moving Towards SDGs with MPOCC and MSPO Certification Scheme Presentation 1: Mr Mohd Hasbollah Suparyono, Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council
16:30 - 16:45	Reimagining Plantations Presentation 2: Dr Harikrishna Kulaveerasingam, Sime Darby Plantations Berhad
16:45 - 17:00	Circular Economy Promotes Sustainability of Palm Oil Industry Presentation 3: Professor Ir Dr Denny K. S. Ng, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia
17:00 - 17:15	Contribution of an Oil Palms Plantation Company Towards Achieving SDGs Presentation 4: Mr Galau Melayong, Sarawak Oil Palms Berhad
17:15 - 18:15	Discussion Forum Chaired and contributed by Dr Helena Varkkey and Ms Khor Yu Leng (Segi Enam Advisors Pte Ltd). Also contributed by Mohd Hasbollah Suparyono, Dr Harikrishna Kulaveerasingam, Professor Denny Ng, Galau Melayong
18:15 - 18:30	Concluding Remark Jointly contributed by all speakers

Chong Mei Fong

Chair
IChemE Palm Oil Processing Special Interest Group

Professor Ir Dr Chong Mei Fong is currently the Technical Director at Dia-Chemical Sdn Bhd. She was first attached to the University of Nottingham and spent her past 15 years of research and development specializing in water and wastewater treatment technologies. She was awarded with various local and international awards including Commercialization Deal Award, ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women (Highly Commended) and Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Award, UK, Biotechnology Award (Highly Commended), UK. She has published more than 40 international journals, two book chapters and a book. She has been awarded with research and commercialization grants, commenced various projects in bioenergy and wastewater technologies across ASEAN countries.

Introductory Remark

Although we are now in the third decade of the 21st century, global warming, supply chain disruption, economic slowdown and food crisis are the challenges that are placed in front of all of us. With trade dispute in certain parts of the world, palm oil becomes a viable solution to the global problems. This year, it marks the 105th anniversary of the oil palm plantation for commercial purpose in Malaysia. The development of palm oil industry has been with us through difficult times in the last century, including global wars, economic crisis and disease outbreak - and we are still embracing these challenges. In a universal call to improve the quality of life and to protect our planet, there is a urgent need to incorporate SDG elements into the advancement of palm oil industry. Together, economic upturn and sustainable development can go hand-in-hand.

Helena Varkkey

Associate Professor in the Department of International and Strategic Studies
Universiti Malaya

Dr Helena Varkkey is an Associate Professor at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya. Her research focuses on the governance of transboundary haze pollution and the political economy of palm oil in Southeast Asia. More broadly, she seeks to understand how economic development can be reconciled with environmental sustainability in this resource-rich region. Her monograph on “The Haze Problem in Southeast Asia: Palm Oil and Patronage” was published in 2016.

Opening Address

Moving forward from the Millennium Development Goals, we are currently in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals. While poverty remains a major focus, there is a broad recognition that poverty alleviation must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. This approach is often simplified under the "people, planet, profit" trifecta. This brief presentation covers the history of the transition of MDG to SDG, the rationale of the UN SDG approach, and the framework for SDGs in Malaysia. It aims to set the stage for the more in-depth discussion that will follow on how the Malaysian palm oil sector can contribute to the achievement of UN SDGs.

Mohd Hasbollah Suparyono

Senior Manager of Strategic Management Department
Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council

En Hasbollah started his career in the palm oil industry in 2010 as an Assistant Manager and Internal Auditor. He gained experience with 3 public-listed plantation companies in Malaysia, where he was directly involved in plantation management and operation, implementation of sustainability certification schemes, operational and financial audit, and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). Eager to serve the country, he joined MPOCC in 2016 as a Senior Executive and was appointed as a Manager of the Training & Outreach Unit in 2019. Through management of change, he was appointed as Senior Manager of the Strategic Management Department in 2021 and headed the portfolio until now.

Moving towards SDGs with MPOCC and MSPO Certification Scheme

The presentation will brief about MPOCC's way forward to become a sustainability driver and how the MSPO Certification Scheme is part of the solution for the industry and the nation in achieving UNSDGs. Strengthening and diversifying its operation, clear strategic direction, support from various stakeholders, industry development and transformation as well as credible scheme and standards are keys. MSPO as a tool to achieve the means of SDGs has set the tone of the Malaysian palm oil sustainability landscape, steering individual players and multi-stakeholders jurisdictional efforts, leaving no behind including independent small farmers.

Harikrishna Kulaveerasingam

Chief Research & Development Officer
Sime Darby Plantation Berhad

Dr Harikrishna Kulaveerasingam obtained BSc (Hons) Plant Sciences from University of London (Wye College), and completed his PhD in Plant Developmental and Molecular Biology at University of Leicester. Prior to joining Sime Darby Plantation, he had experience of working in academia as well as industry in the USA and Malaysia with over 30 year's post-graduate experience in biotechnology. In 2012 he was inducted into the Malaysian Academy of Science as a fellow. He spearheaded Sime Darby Plantation Genome Project resulting in the first successful commercial planting of Genome Select in 2016. This innovative break-through was Internationally recognised by a Bronze medal, Edison Award 2017 for sustainability.

Reimagining Plantations

Sime Darby Plantation has been investing in R&D since the 1920's and has initiated many projects on palm oil production and milling, either improving productivity or reducing/treating waste products towards reducing the carbon and water footprint. We will present some of these innovations that support the journey of the Industry towards these goals and ultimately being fully circularised.

Denny K. S. Ng

Professor in the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

Professor Ir Dr Denny Ng is the Head, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Malaysia. Professor Ng is well published over 220 papers with an h-index of 40. His areas of specialisation include development of sustainable production and consumption strategies, optimisation of sustainable value chain of palm oil industry, energy management, resource conservation via process integration techniques, synthesis and analysis of biomass processing and integrated bio refineries. With his excellence contributions, he received number of international and national recognitions such as Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Augustine S H Ong International Special Award on Innovations and Inventions in Palm Oil (Young Scientist) 2021; listed as Top 2% of scientists of their main subfield discipline in 2019, Stanford List; Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) in 2018; etc. Apart from focusing on research and development (R&D), Professor Ng also applied his R&D output in industrial consultation projects. To date, Professor Ng has received more than RM 3.5 million research grants from government and industries to develop his research and commercialise the outputs.

Circular Economy Promotes Sustainability of Palm Oil Industry

In order to enhance the resource conservation and sustainability of palm oil industry, the generated waste can be reused/recycled within palm oil sector. However, there are still large amount of waste generated being disposed. To address such issue, a circular economy approach shall be developed around the palm oil industry. The generated waste from palm oil sector can be used as feedstock or input to other industries such as polymer, construction materials, furniture, paper production, etc. Via such approach, materials that are low in cost, weight, renewable and biodegradable can be used as feedstock and create a self-regenerative system amongst the industries. In this talk, a systematic approach to promote circular economy for palm oil industry are to be discussed.

Galau Melayong

Head of Sustainability
Sarawak Oil Palms Berhad

Galau Melayong obtained MSc in Plantation Management from UPM. He started his career at Sarawak Oil Palms Bhd (SOPB) as a Cadet planter in 1989. He held post of Estates Manager, Plantation Controller and today the Head of Sustainability at SOPB. He is the Sub-Committee Chairman of Sarawak Plantation Owners Associations (SOPPOA) for sustainability and certifications. He is also an active member of the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Technical Working Group (TWG) under Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC), and MSPO Expert Working Group (EWG) under Department of Standard Malaysia (DSM). Since 2017, he has been a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for High Conservation Value (HCV) Malaysia under HCV Malaysia.

Contribution of an Oil Palms Plantation Company Towards Achieving SDGs

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 by all UN members which comprise of seventeen goals to work towards so as to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs collectively is a clarion call for the countries and societies to work together to create a sustainable future where poverty would be eliminated, standards of health and education would be improved, and continuous economic growth could be achieved and sustained, whilst the challenges of climate change could be addressed and tackled.

Khor Yu Leng

Research Head for Southeast Asia
Segi Enam Advisors Pte Ltd

Khor Yu Leng is a senior economic consultant at Segi Enam Advisors Pte Ltd, based in Southeast Asia. She works on trade-competitive landscape studies on palm oil, rubber, pulpwood, timber, biomass, renewable fuels and other agribusiness; and leads political economic and ESG studies. A specialist on trade, sustainable supply-chains and economics, she has advised Fortune 500 companies, the European Commission (as lead economist on its Palm Oil Study, 2018) and state agencies in ASEAN in scores of studies; and presented at universities in Cambridge, Paris, Oslo, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. She is on expert panels, presenting to banks and fund managers in the major financial hubs, and to global NGOs like the WWF. She is a regular on live radio and TV at BFM 89.9 on agribusiness, ESG topics and more. Yu Leng was trained at Oxford University and the London School of Economics and started her career on the sell and buy-sides at financial institutions. Her work in market intelligence also provides her with a deep-dive understanding of issues for those involved in procurement, FDI, M&A and partner reputation reviews.

SDGs and Beyond: Malaysian Palm Oil's Competitive Challenges & Opportunities

Looking into Malaysia's position relative to its competitors in the palm oil trade, let us touch on how UN SDG and other metrics provide insights, and ask how voluntary efforts are keeping up to expectations and regulatory shifts for ESG compliance on labour and carbon. How might UN SDGs be implemented in terms of governance, stakeholder engagement and initiatives?

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MPOC

Malaysian Palm Oil Council

Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) is a corporate body with a mission to promote the market expansion of Malaysian palm oil and its products by enhancing the image of palm oil and creating better acceptance through awareness of various technological and economic advantages (techno-economic advantages) and environmental sustainability.

MPOC's Missions:

- To enhance trade opportunities in the market place by identifying and meeting the latest opportunities in the market.
- To encourage product diversification by using Malaysian palm oil as the key ingredient, thus gaining a prominent role in new and reformulated products.
- To improve understanding of palm oil, enhancing its application and elucidating its numerous strengths and benefits.
- To uphold the good name of Malaysian palm oil by closing the gap between the issues of perception, allegations and the realities of palm oil.
- To safeguard Malaysian palm oil as the most dominant vegetable oil in terms of market coverage, nutritional benefits, environmental sustainability and commercial success.

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Monash-Industry Palm Oil Education and Research

Monash-Industry Palm Oil Education and Research (MIPO) is a platform for university-industry-government cooperation aimed to improve the sustainability of the palm oil industry in the country and beyond.

The palm oil industry is a significant contributor to the socio-economic growth in this region of the world. However, the large scale production of palm oil has become a global issue because it has been linked to deforestation, loss of habitat, and other social issues.

Being geographically located in the region where about 90% of the world's palm oil is produced, Monash University Malaysia has set up a Multidisciplinary Research Platform (MIPO) to address some of the challenges facing the industry.

With a team of outstanding researchers and the state-of-the-art research and education facilities, MIPO aims to promote cross-disciplinary collaborations and university-industry linkages in developing sustainable solutions for the production of palm oil through research, education and training.

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Sime Darby
YAYASAN

UKM-Yayasan Sime Darby

The UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability focuses on the direct participation of the community and the industry to tackle sustainability challenges specifically on SDG1-No Poverty, SDG4-Quality Education, SDG9-Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG12-Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG13-Climate Change.

The sustainability initiatives are based on a multi-disciplinary and multi-organization approach representing the community, industry, government agencies and academia.

The primary goal is to work on sustainability initiatives focusing on smart partnerships, climate change resilience and smart circular solutions.

The sustainability initiatives of the Chair were carried out via eight research thrust areas namely circular solutions, green conversion technologies, intelligent systems, IoT & data analytics, community resilience and empowerment, sustainability literacy, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

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