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NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2013

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Pengurangan Risiko Bencana – "Jantung" Kampus Lestari
Disaster Risk Reduction – The Heart of a Sustainable Campus

Joy Jacqueline Pereira & Mohd Khairul Zain Ismail

Malaysia menerima pakai Rangka Kerja Tindakan Hyogo (2005-2015), satu pelan tindakan untuk mengurangkan risiko bencana, pada tahun 2005. Sejak itu pelaksanaan inisiatif pengurangan risiko bencana di negara ini telah diselaraskan oleh Majlis Keselamatan Negara. Sejak penubuhannya pada 2008, SEADPRI-UKM telah memberikan sokongan secara saintifik dan teknikal kepada Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) dalam menangani pengurangan risiko bencana di negara ini. SEADPRI-UKM dengan bangganya telah menyumbang kepada Deklarasi Melaka pada Pengurangan Risiko Bencana di Malaysia 2011, yang menyeru kepada penubuhan platform kebangsaan dan rangka kerja undang-undang yang komprehensif bagi menangani risiko dan pengurusan bencana di Malaysia, serta sebagai inisiatif untuk meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai perubahan iklim di kalangan pengamal pengurangan risiko bencana. MKN dijangka akan melancarkan platform kebangsaan mengenai pengurangan risiko bencana pada 2013 dan SEADPRI-UKM akan memberikan sokongan teknikal untuk ini serta inisiatif lain yang sedang dijalankan oleh MKN.

UKM sangat proaktif di dalam menangani isu pengurangan risiko bencana. Pada 22 November 2012 yang lalu, dengan mengambil kira dari insiden kecil kegagalan cerun dan banjir kilat di dalam kampus, Naib Canselor, Y. Bhg. Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin mengumumkan rancangan untuk menubuhkan Pejabat UKM Pembangunan Lestari "untuk mengurangkan kemungkinan kesan bencana alam". Pelan ini amat berpandangan jauh memandangkan peningkatan bilangan bencana yang berkaitan dengan kepelbagaian perubahan iklim. Di bawah naungan Jawatankuasa Kampus Lestari yang dipengerusikan oleh Y. Bhg. Datin Paduka Dr. Halimaton Saadiah Hashim, SEADPRI-UKM kini menyediakan Pelan Strategik UKM bagi Pengurangan Risiko Bencana untuk memenuhi visi Naib Canselor dan berusaha untuk mencapai "bencana sifar" di kampus. Pelan Strategik ini akan menjadi yang pertama seumpamanya untuk sebuah universiti. Ia juga akan menyokong Majlis Keselamatan Negara dan Negara di dalam memenuhi obligasi dan tuntutan di bawah Rangka Kerja Tindakan Hyogo.

"Recognising the importance of scientific research, the Ministry of Higher Education has established the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Institute at the National University of Malaysia to address knowledge gaps and education as well as promote policy-relevant solutions to reduce underlying risk factors at all levels of planning. Science and innovation play an important role in ensuring vulnerabilities are not re-built and communities that are prone to disaster and risk are more resilient in their housing, community facilities and other built structures."

Hon. Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak in his Inaugural Speech at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2nd December 2008.

In 2005, Malaysia adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015), which is an action plan to reduce the risk of disasters. The implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the country is coordinated by the National Security Council and since its establishment in 2008, SEADPRI-UKM has been providing scientific and technical support to the National Security Council in addressing disaster risk reduction in the country. SEADPRI-UKM is proud to have significantly contributed to the Melaka Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Malaysia in 2011, which calls for the establishment of a national platform and comprehensive legal framework for risk and disaster management in Malaysia, as well as initiatives to increase awareness of climate change among disaster risk reduction practitioners. The National Security Council is expected to launch the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013 and SEADPRI-UKM is providing technical support for this as well as other initiatives being undertaken by the Council.

UKM has been very proactive in tackling the issue of disaster risk reduction. On 22 November 2012, being cognizant of minor incidences of slope failures and flash floods within the campus, the Vice Chancellor, Y. Bhg. Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin announced a plan to set up the UKM Office of Sustainable Development "to reduce the possibility of natural disasters". The plan is very forward-looking in view of the increasing number of disasters related to climate variability and change. Under the auspices of the Sustainable Campus Committee chaired by Y. Bhg. Datin Paduka Dr. Halimaton Saadiah Hashim, SEADPRI-UKM is now preparing a UKM Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction to fulfil the vision of the Vice Chancellor and strive for a "zero disaster" campus. The Strategic Plan will be the first ever of its kind for a university. It will also support the National Security Council and the country in fulfilling its obligations under the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Climatic Hazards

Enhancing Disaster Prevention Through Climate Change Adaptation

Tan Ching Tiong

Image courtesy from Google

Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, Pro-Chancellor of UKM played an instrumental role in forging the relationship between University of Cambridge and SEADPRI-UKM.

The Climatic Hazards Programme of SEADPRI-UKM continued its active engagement and communication with different stakeholders in the second half of 2012. Several key events, format the national, regional and international levels, were conducted in collaboration with prominent partners.

In Malaysia, SEAPDRI-UKM co-organised the 6th and 7th Strategic Consultation Labs on Climate Change Impact on Water Related Issues with the Academy of ScienceMalaysia on 12-13 December 2012. Drawing from the findings of the IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, Prof. Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira discussed the linkages, practices and challenges of key concepts and methods before proposing a spatially contextualised approach for local adaptation.

Two regional workshops were organised in November 2012. SEADPRI-UKM with Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, and the Cambridge Educational Development Trust held the Workshop on Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Asia on 5-7 November 2012. The event was supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia and National Security Council in the Prime Minister's Department. It brought together more than 30 international and national experts in sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and information with about 200 participants. On 9 November 2012, SEAPDRI co-organised the Workshop on Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation with the Coordinating Committee on Geoscience Programme in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) in conjunction with the 48th CCOP Annual Session in Langkawi, Malaysia. The workshop was jointly organised with the Minerals and Geoscience DepartmentMalaysiaand the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) to sensitise the geoscience community to risk and vulnerability assessments with respect to disaster and climate change as well as to improve the identification of socio-economically feasible adaptation options.

The participation of the Climatic Hazards Programme in the international initiatives on climate change adaptation is also continuing. As the Coordinating Lead Author to the Asian chapter in Working Group II of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, Prof. Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira attended the Third Lead Author Meeting on 23-26October 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At the policy platform, Mr. Tan Ching Tiong joined the national delegation to the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar on 26 November to 9 December 2012 and supported on issues related adaptation.

Geological Hazards

5th AMCDRR: Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction

Lim Choun Sian

Image courtesy from Google

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) is a biennial conference organised by rotation in different Asian countries since 2005. The event represents a unique opportunity for Ministers in charge of disaster management from the region to reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction 2005-2015, which was adopted by 168 UN Member States in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in 2005. The conference also serves as a forum to exchange experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches in implementing HFA's five priorities for action at the national and local levels.

The Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR): Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia on 22-25 October 2012 and was officiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. This international event was attended by Heads of Government, Ministers, and Heads of Delegation of countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Having experiences in dealing with various and numerous calamities, Indonesia has fully recognized the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction efforts at the local level. In the past six years, Indonesia has achieved significant milestones on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) implementation at the national level and now the country is committed to and encourages all relevant DRR stakeholders to actively participate in accelerating DRR implementation at the local level. It is, therefore, the intention of the Government of Indonesia to use "Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction" as the overarching theme of the 5th AMCDRR, including 3 sub-themes:

1. Integrating Local Level Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into National Development Planning
2. Local Risk Assessment and Financing
3. Strengthening Local Risk Governance and Partnership.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the "Jogjakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012" by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation involved that calls on DRR stakeholders to participate fully in the consultations now underway worldwide to mainstream disaster risk reduction into the post-2015 Development Agenda and to provide input for the development of a new Post-2015 DRR framework.

Delegates from Malaysia comprised of representatives from the National Security Council, Perbadanan Putrajaya, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Department of Drainage and Irrigation, Sepang Municipal Council and Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute (SEADPRI-UKM). SEADPRI-UKM looks forward to continuously supporting the National Security Council in implementing and tracking the implementation of HFA at national, local and regional levels.

Technological Hazards

Engineered Nanomaterials – Hazard or Wizard?

Lee Yook Heng

Nanotechnology has been heralded as a new form of technology that will be able to solve many of the world's problems, almost like magic. There is no doubt that nanotechnology has created many possibilities to revolutionise various aspects of our lives. One of the major contributions of nanotechnology is the creation of engineered nanomaterials (ENMs) or products containing these materials. In contrast to naturally occurring (or unintentionally) produced ultrafine materials (e.g. aerosol), ENMs are intentionally manufactured with sizes in the range of 1 to 100 nanometers (nm), in at least one dimension. Due to their small dimensions, these materials often possess unique properties that differ from the normally observed fundamental characteristics. Such unique behaviour is the result of many different characteristic manifestations of individual atoms, molecules, and bulk matter that exist at the nanoscale. We are interested in developing ENMs because their unique behaviour leads to innovative and exciting applications for our daily living. ENMs are increasingly being used in electronic devices (e.g. computer hard drives), imaging applications (magnetic and medical imaging), drug delivery, personal care products and cosmetics, stain resistant fabric, dental bonding, corrosion-resistance coating, household and home improvement products. Some common examples of ENMs are carbon-based nanomaterials (e.g. carbon nanotubes, buckyball fullerene, grapheme etc), metal based ENMs (gold and silver nanoparticles, etc), metal oxides or sulphides based ENMs (e.g. quantum dots).

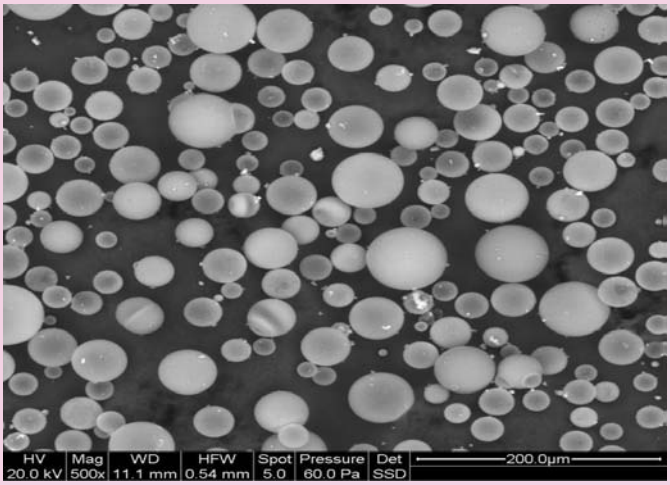
ENMs exhibit distinct chemical, physical, and biological properties in different forms or at different magnitudes as compared with fine particles of similar chemical compositions because of their small size and large surface area. In general there is a lack of documented cases and research of human toxicity from ENM exposure. Many agree that very little is known about ENM safety. Thus, knowledge gaps pervade nearly all aspects of ENM environmental health and safety. Nevertheless, an extensive variety of ENMs have now been created and utilised in many products and more extensive use is anticipated in the near future. The lack of knowledge and understanding of ENMs could lead to restrictions or outright bans, and thus international conflicts over production, sale, and transport of ENMs and their products. Public acceptance of ENMs is particularly dependent on the awareness and understanding of the safety and the risk of applications of these materials in daily life.

A framework for evaluating the risk and management of ENM risk should therefore focus on research, risk assessment and risk management. The research component of the risk management can include both laboratory and field based observations of adverse human/environmental health effects, estimation of exposure and extrapolation of low to high doses of exposure. Risk assessment will require hazard identification, dose response and exposure assessments. With integration of the outputs from the research and risk assessment components, risk characterisation can be accomplished for risk management where prevention approaches are adopted and their efficacy and efficiency are evaluated. With such a framework, appropriate risk reduction and prevention options can then be implemented.

In the bigger picture, a national guidance document involving risk management of nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials will be more holistic and appropriate. UNITAR has developed the Nano Guidance Document, involving stakeholders in a stepwise approach, with the objectives of the identification of potential and actual impacts of nanotechnology and nanomaterials in terms of economy, health, environment, social issues, ethics, legislation and related priorities and gaps. According to UNITAR (Peterson and Mokhtar, 2012), several key issues for the development of a comprehensive stakeholder-driver nano assessment document are:

- Assessment and awareness of national situations, applications, industry, imports/exports, implications for human health and environment and citizen right-to-know.
- Evaluation of potential and/or actual hazards and risk for workers, waste handlers, consumers, citizens, customs officers and emergency responders.
- Identification of legal agencies, contact points/centre or "clearing house" of national needs,
- Training objectives, priority setting and goal setting
- Evaluation of national Action Plan, its outcome and suggestions for improvement of the existing UNITAR guidance document on nano assessment.

The Technological Hazard Programme of SEADPRI has established Chemical Risk Management research for several years. It is the aspiration of the Programme to be involved in the research of ENMs, particularly the holistic risk management aspects. In view of the vigorous promotion of nanotechnology in Malaysia and the rapid adoption of the ENM sector as an income generator for the national economy, it is timely to carry out research on the holistic risk management of nanotechnology and ENMs.

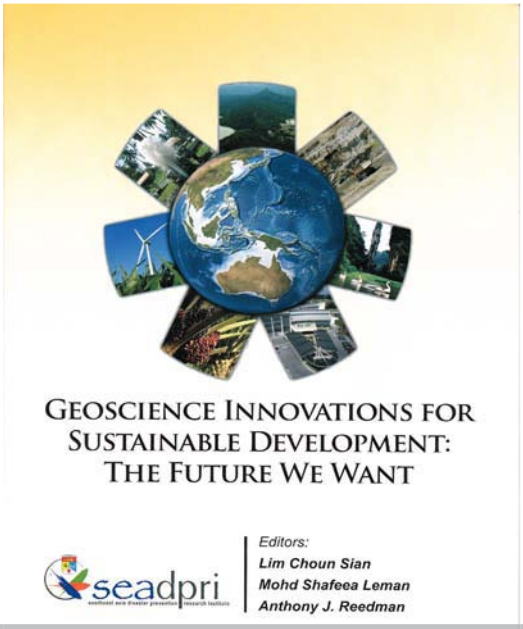


Researchers reveal the emission of nanomaterials caused by water runoff on surfaces containing nanomaterials. These surface treatments are employed in numerous consumption and construction products, so evidences of the presence of engineered nanomaterials are beginning to appear in the environment. (Credit: Image courtesy of Basque Research). Retrieved from http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120919103319.htm on 22nd March 2013

Activities

Workshop on Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation
4-8 November 2012, Langkawi, Malaysia

Lim Choun Sian



Abstracts Book of the Thematic Session on Geoscience Innovations for Sustainable Development: The Future We Want. In conjuction with 48th CCOP Annual Session, Holiday Villa Spa & Beach Resort, Langkawi, Malaysia, 6-7 November 2012.

Climate change and its potential impact on natural hazards are high on the political and scientific agenda. The recent special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) focuses on the relationship between climate change and extreme weather and climate events as well as the impacts of these events on vulnerable societies.

The Workshop on Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation was jointly organised by the Minerals and Geosciences Department of Malaysia (JMG), Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM), Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) and CCOP Technical Secretariat (CCOP-TS), in conjunction with the 48th Annual Session of the CCOP, held from 4-8 November 2012 in Langkawi Island, Malaysia. The Workshop was officiated by the Dato' Zakaria Mohamad, State Director of JMG (Selangor & Kuala Lumpur), Minerals and Geoscience Department Malaysia. It was attended by 41 participants from various agencies from CCOP member countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Norway, United Kingdom and Finland.

The workshop highlighted findings of SREX with respect to its relevance to the geoscience community. The aim was to sensitise participants regarding susceptibility, vulnerability and exposure to delineate entry points for geoscience in improving the identification of socio-economically feasible adaptation options. Perspectives from several historically distinct research groups studying climate science, climate impacts, adaptation to climate change, and disaster risk management were elaborated through papers presented and followed by a dialogue on Enhancing Adaptive Capacity in Southeast Asia: the Way Forward. In this Workshop on Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation, Prof. Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, SEADPRI-UKM and Ms. Jaana Jarva, GTK as the resource person for this event shared respectively with the participants on Disaster Prevention and Climate Change Adaptation: Highlights of IPCC-SREX, and Assessing Vulnerabilities and Identifying Adaptation Potential: The European Experience. These were followed by three technical papers presented in the workshop; Terrain Assessment for Land Use Planning by Dato' Zakaria Mohamad, JMG; Mapping Susceptibility for Climate Change Adaptation by Mr Lim Choun Sian, SEADPRI-UKM; and Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in Geology and the Minerals Sector by Dr. Nguyen Thi Minh Ngoc & Niran Chaimanee, CCOP-TS.

The final part of the workshop was a dialogue session, "Enhancing Adaptive Capacity in Southeast Asia: the Way Forward" facilitated by Mr. Chen Shick Pei, Honorary Advisor of CCOP and Honorary Fellow of SEADPRI-UKM. The dialogue enabled lively exchange with participants sharing experience on disaster risk reduction efforts from each agency and country that will help to strengthen future adaptive capacity for climate change and natural hazards. Cooperation on several projects between CCOP members were also proposed. The event concluded with the closing remark that encompassed wrap-up on the essence of the workshop by Prof. Mazlin bin Mokhtar, Acting Director of SEADPRI-UKM.

Activities

Workshop on Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Asia
5-7 November 2012, Equatorial Hotel Bangi

Nurfashareena Muhamad

In recent years, numerous natural disasters have been reported and climate change is thought to have played a major role in these events. Climate change has caused natural disasters to happen more frequently and with increased intensity, causing more devastation.

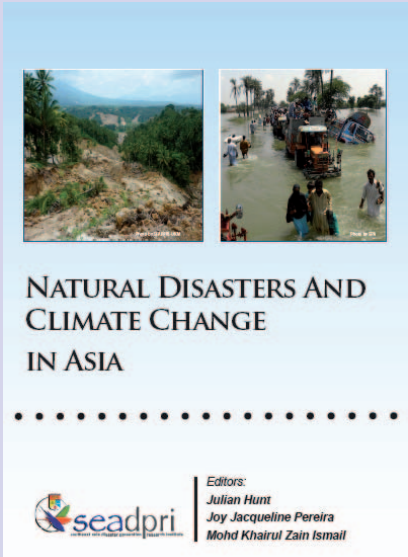
For that reason, this issue gives rise to an interest in research on the relationship between natural disasters and climate change. As natural disasters have a large social and economic impact on Asia, a workshop on Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Asia was held in order to review and publicise the issue in Asia. The workshop was held 5th to 7th November 2012 at the Equatorial Hotel, Bangi with participants consisting of academics, researchers from various countries, practitioners from government and non-governmental organisations as well as students. The workshop presented two themes: (1) the science, prediction and risk reduction and (2) the policy and practice of disaster preparedness. A session with the panel was conducted at the end of all keynote presentations every day. Keynote presentations were provided by speakers and experts come from various countries.

This workshop successfully achieved its objectives; researchers, expertise, practitioners and policy makers from the natural disaster and climate change communities were brought together to discuss and present their keynotes to review their findings in the development of climate change science and prediction in Asia. In addition, understanding what science and technology can do in preparing vulnerable communities for climate change and the effects were also highlighted. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to create a network of like-minded people and share ideas and opinions regarding natural disasters and climate change issues.

This workshop was also an effort to enhance the mitigation for and adaptation to natural disasters and climate change to ensure sustainable development. Towards the end of this workshop, a future collaboration through the Asian Climate Change Network was discussed that focused on regional priorities, proposed actions and cooperative mechanisms.

Emphasising the issue of natural disasters and climate change through a workshop attended by people from various backgrounds is important because experts and the researchers will help provide an insight into the issue, while making recommendations to the policy makers and at the same time disseminating information to the public. It helps us to better understand the situation the world has been facing and create projections for the future.

Workshop on Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Asia, 5-7 November 2012, at Equatorial Hotel Bangi was officiated by Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, Pro-Chancellor of UKM.



Abstracts Book of the Workshop on Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Asia, 5-7 November 2012, at Equatorial Hotel Bangi.

WELCOME TO THE NEW FELLOWS OF SEADPRI-UKM

Dr. Tanot Anak Unjah

Coordinator of Geological Hazards Programme

Dr. Tanot Anak Unjah obtained her PhD in Environment and Development from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2011. She began her career as a Graduate Research Assistant at Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 1999. She is currently appointed as a Coordinator of Geological Hazards Programme at Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM). Prior to joining SEADPRI-UKM, she was engaged with LESTARI-UKM as a Research Fellow. Dr. Tanot's interest is in Conservation Geology, Geotourism, Nature Conservation and Natural Resources Management. Dr. Tanot has many academic affiliations, both locally and internationally including lifetime membership and council member of Geological Society of Malaysia and National Representative - Malaysia Chapter for Young Earth Scientist Network, which is under the patronage of UNESCO. Dr. Tanot has conducted many scientific expeditions such as first group mapping for Geosite: Bau Landscape and limestone; Scientific Expedition of Gunung Machinchang; and Scientific Expedition of Taman Negara Endau Rompin. She has published numerous articles in journals and proceedings in the fields of geological hazards, geotourism and geological heritage.

Dr. Mohammad Imam Hasan Reza

Research Fellow

Dr. Reza obtained his PhD in Environment and Development from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Dr. Reza is a Landscape Ecologist and Environmental Scientist whose research focuses on integrating knowledge of ecological and environmental processes with the multi-faceted socio-economic factors in the landscape to a regional scale. Using modern geospatial technologies like remote sensing and GIS, he is particularly interested in a building multi-criteria decision support system to solve contemporary issues of ecological and environmental processes and factors. He has generated a new model of ecological indicators to develop an index to measure ecological integrity at the regional scale. Presently he is concentrating on developing a methodological framework of integrated disaster risk management in Malaysia. He is also working on developing a decision support system to solve climatic, environmental and hydro-meteorological disaster risks in the urban areas. He is involved with a regional research project about the politics, governance and vulnerability of contemporary issues related to the floods in the ASEAN. He has contributed to a number of research projects in the area including landscape ecological assessment for conservation planning, and landscape connectivity measurement at the regional scale. Since 1999, Dr. Reza has been conducting courses in ecosystem ecology, environmental management, environmental hazards, GIS and remote sensing, micro environment and limnology. He has published a number of quality research articles and book chapters. Dr. Reza is actively involved in various national and international professional and research organisations.

8 BULETIN SEADPRI NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY
2013

Sekalung Penghargaan Buat Insan Berjiwa 'Besar', Y.Bhg. Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo

Petikan teks pidato umum oleh Prof. Dr. Mazlin bin Mokhtar

IBRAHIM KOMOO – Guru, Penyelidik, Pensyarah, Pemikir, Pendidik, Profesor, Perintis, Penasihat, Malim, Pakar dan Mentor yang luarbiasa. Beliau dilahirkan pada 12 September 1952 di Segamat, Johor. Beliau ialah anak keempat daripada tujuh orang adik-beradik dan mendapat pendidikan awal di Johor iaitu di Sekolah Kebangsaan Jementah, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Segamat, dan Sekolah Dato' Sri Amar DiRaja Muar; sebelum berpindah ke Sekolah Sultan Abdul Halim,Jitra, Kedah. Selepas lulus pengajian tingkatan enam beliau sempat mengikuti Program Latihan Pegawai Tentera di Melaka sebelum dipelawa ke UKM untuk pengajian Ijazah Sarjana Muda.

Ibrahim Komoo ialah pemimpin akademik terkemuka Malaysia, dan dunia. Beliau mencurahkan bakti selama lebih tiga puluh tahun dalam bidang Sains Kelestarian iaitu pemanafaatan ilmu sains untuk penghidupan seimbang masyarakat. Ibrahim berkelulusan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dengan kepujian dalam Bidang Geologi, UKM (1976) dan lulusan PhD dalam bidang Geologi Kejuruteraan dari Universiti Stratchclyde, Scotland (1979).

Ibrahim pernah bertugas sebagai Profesor Geologi Kejuruteraan dan Geologi Pemuliharaan di UKM; Ketua Jabatan Geologi UKM; FeloUtama, Pengarah Bersekutu dan Timbalan Pengarah Pengasas, serta Pengarah LESTARI; Pengurus Kanan di Pusat Penyelidikan dan Perkhidmatan Saintifik "PETRONAS" (PRSS); Timbalan Presiden PKAUKM; Ahli Majlis dan Felo Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM); Timbalan Naib Canselor Penyelidikan dan Inovasi UKM; Naib Presiden Persatuan Geologi Kejuruteraan Antarabangsa (IAEG); Perintis Gagasan Geopark Langkawi; Penilai Geopark Global UNESCO; Presiden Persatuan Geologi Malaysia; Profesor Adjung di Universiti Charles Darwin, Australia; Pengarah Pengasas Institut Kajian Bencana Asia Tenggara (SEADPRI); Ketua Kluster Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (MajlisProfesor Negara); dan Penasihat Khas Menteri Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia. Kini beliau berkhidmat sebagai Naib Canselor Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) sejak 13 April 2012.

Ibrahim yang dipanggil "IBK" oleh para sahabat ialah seorang ahli motivasi, penginovasi, penulis bergeliga, pakar tanah runtuh dan intelek yang sentiasa berkongsi ilmu dengnpara pelajar, rakan akademik serta masyarakat melalui pelbagai cara dan menerusi berbagai media termasuk sebagai penulis jemputan terkenal di akhbar tempatan.

Ramai yang telah memberi anugerah dan pengiktirafan kepada Ibrahim kerana jasa dan kehebatan beliau, antaranya adalah Anugerah Cemerlang UKM; Anugerah Citra UKM; Anugerah Langkawi 2010; International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Science Excellence Award 2012 dalam bidang Environmental Geology; serta Pengurniaan Darjah Kebesaran Negeri Sembilan (DSNS) yang membawa gelaran Dato' pada tahun 2006. Dalam Majlis Konvokesyen UKM Ke-40 tahun 2012, beliau telah dianugerahkan gelaran Profesor Emeritus dalam bidang Sains Kelestarian.

Ibrahim suka bersukan bila berkelapangan. Aktiviti riadah kegemaran beliau merangkumi sukan olahraga, bolasepak, tenis, squasy dan golf. Beliau memegang rekod lontar peluru Majlis Sukan Sekolah-Sekolah Kedah 1969. Pada kalangan rakan golf di UKM, Ibrahim secara berseloroh digelar "IB Mickelson" kerana bakat permainan kidalnya ala pemain golf terkenal "PHIL Mickelson". Ibrahim juga seorang suami, ayah dan "Tokki" yang penyayang kepada tujuh orang cahaya mata, iaitu lima putera dan dua puteri, serta tiga orang cucunda.

Ke Tanjung Malim Beli Kelapa
Perisa Sihat Putera Bistari
Budi Ibrahim, UKM Tak Lupa
Sentiasa Terpahat di Sanubari

Meningkat Umur Si Anak Watan
Diri Terpegun Bila Bersua
Ibrahim Komoo Sentiasa Di Ingatan
Seribu Tahun Terkenang Jua

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