MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE(MSSS)

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014 (1)

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Message by the MSSS President

Year 2014 MSSS celebrates its 43rd year as a professional body representing the interest and aspiration of the soil scientists in Malaysia. As the new term begins, we are reviving the MSSS Newsletter as a means to disseminate information and get better connected with all members. SOILS 2014 has just been concluded and on behalf of MSSS and as the Chair of SOILS 2014, I wish to convey our heartfelt thanks to Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) for giving excellent support and contribution as co-organizer. We are also planning many other activities to promote science and technology advancement in areas of soil research, to reach out to the public through social events including the usual student dermasiswa scheme, the annual event Soil Science Conference of Malaysia 2015 (SOILS 2015) and many more to surface in conjunction with the proclamation of 2015 as the International Year of Soils by FAO. It is my desire to witness the productive months ahead and look forward to active participation from all members in our activities. On that note, I thank MSSS members for having trust in me to lead the society. I would also like to congratulate the Past President and his Management Committee members for their untiring efforts to ensure continued relevancy of MSSS and for professionally managed crucial issues pertaining to the Registrar of Society. I, together with all elected 2014/2015 committee members, will try to work out exciting and motivating events and we welcome helping hands and constructive suggestions from all MSSS members.

DR. WAN RASIDAH ABDUL KADIR

'Membership is a renewable resource, help us help you'

Past President MSSS 2012/2014
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd. Hanif

IN MEMORY OF ASSOC. PROF. DR. ANUAR A. RAHIM

His active involvement and passion for the Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) can never be measured where he diligently served as a treasurer from 1994, until his demise in April 2014

The late Dr. Anuar Abdul Rahim was a knowledgeable lecturer and researcher, who wore a pleasant smile all the time. He never failed to make you feel good with his warm praises. An epitome of patience and kindness, he was always willing to help his students and colleagues. He was born on January 1, 1952 in Bayan Lepas, Penang. He obtained his degree in Diploma of Agriculture from Agriculture College of Malaya in 1973. Initially, he served as an Agriculture Assistant Officer in the Department of Agriculture, Kuantan after graduation and later awarded a scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Louisiana State University, USA (1978). He subsequently enrolled for a Master of Science course in Mississippi State University, USA in May 1978. His Ph.D thesis was entitled "Nitrogen contribution by groundnut in a rotational cropping system on an Ultisol" which he was awarded a postgraduate degree in August 1991 from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

The late Dr. Anuar started his tenure in UPM Bintulu Campus in June 1978 and was promoted to Associate Professor in year 2008 in UPM Serdang campus. He taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in precision agriculture, experimental design and analysis, soil fertility, sustainable land development and land management for plantation. He has guided and supervised more than 100 undergraduates, 10 Ph.D and 41 M.Sc. postgraduate students. He served as the Head of the Department of Land Management from 2007 to 2009.

His forte was mainly soil fertility and management, statistical analyses and precision agriculture where he had successfully completed various research and consultancy projects since 1998. The late Dr. Anuar had written and co-authored 81 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He also co-authored two books entitled "Some Essentials of Good Scientific Research" and "Sustainable Production of Pineapples on Tropical Peat Soils" in 2006 and 2013, respectively. His active involvement and passion for the Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) can never be measured where he diligently served as a treasurer from 1994, until his demise in 2014. His undivided commitment in MSSS activities, especially the annual Soil Science Conference was monumental for the last 20 years. His contributions earned him a MSSS fellow status in 2010. The late Dr. Anuar left behind his beloved wife and 3 children on 20th April 2014.His passing has created a void but his contributions will remain in the core of the society forever. *Photos and text by Kang Seong Hun and Nurul Wahida Hani*

SOIL SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2014, KANGAR PERLIS

Soil Science Conference 2014 (SOILS 2014) is an annual conference organized by The Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS). This year, SOILS 2014 was successfully held from April 8-10 2014 in Putra Palace Hotel, Kangar Perlis and was jointly organized with Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP). The three days conference was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Y.B. Dato' Sri James Dawos Mamit. During the opening ceremony, the welcoming remarks were delivered by the MSSS President, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanif and Y. Bhg. Brig. Jen. Datuk Prof. Dr. Kamarudin Husin, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP). In line with the global concerns on environmental quality, the conference theme was focused towards ***Soil Management and Environment***. The objectives of the conference included to impart and discuss issues and findings on best practice in managing soils for crop productivity and environmental quality; to promote sharing of new findings and addressing multiple aspects on soil research and management and to develop and strengthen networking among the soil scientist and the stakeholders. A keynote paper, three plenary papers and 27 volunteer papers for oral presentations were delivered by the participants and another 43 volunteer papers were submitted for poster presentation. Mrs. Ijan Khushaida Mohd Jan from Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented a keynote paper titled ***Contaminated Land Management in Malaysia: Legal Framework Brief***. The plenary speakers, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Che Fauziah Ishak from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Dr. Abd. Rahman Kassim from FRIM and Dr. Ramli Mohd Noor from Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) presented their papers titled ***Soil Acidification and Management Practices to Offset its Impact on Plants and the Soil System***, ***Influence of Soil Types on Tree Species Diversity, Carbon Stock and Abundance in a Primary Lowland forest*** and ***Soil Biological Degradation and Remediation***.

The Chairperson, Dr. Wan Rasidah Abdul Kadir from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the organizing committee from various organizations have done a tremendous job in ensuring the success of this event. The conference was marked by an unprecedented degree of participation by professionals from institutions and organizations consisting of universities, research institutions, government agencies and plantation companies. These 150 participants gathered in Kangar to review and profit from their shared experiences and research findings. A field visit was arranged with collaboration with Department of Agriculture (DOA) on April 10 for the participants to experience soil correlation and pedon identification located in Universiti Technology Mara (UiTM) Perlis and Pusat Pertanian Bukit Bintang Perlis. The participants were also briefed on *Harumanis* and grapes projects in Perlis by the Director of Pusat Pertanian Bukit Bintang. The field visit ended on a high note of gratitude and appreciation to soil correlator and DOA for their outstanding effort and support.

PUBLIC LECTURE:
Fertilizer & Agriculture: Challenges to Food Security & Sustainability
Speaker: Luc M. Maene
Date: 5th June 2014
Venue: Dewan Pertanian, F. Pertanian UPM

Photos and text by Mohamad Fakhri Ishak and Dr. Nasrul Hamidin

DOA-MSSS SOIL CORRELATION 2014

SOIL CORRELATION 2014 will be jointly organize by Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) from 19th-20th August 2014 along Cherating-Kuantan-Temerloh Route. This correlation tour will provide a platform for **fellow planters, agronomists, soil scientists** and other interested parties to understand the types of soils, their properties and classification. The tentative pedons which will be examined are Sedentary, Riverine Alluvial and BRIS Soils. Visit our website at http://www.msss.com.my or contact **Dr. Liew Yew Ann** at e-mail : liewya@aarsb.com.my , Tel : 03-61517924/5 for further information. Participation will be on first come first served basis.

Photos and text by Dr. Liew Yew Ann

DO YOU KNOW?? the Latin name for man (homo) is derived from humus, the stuff of life in the soil."

Congratulations New members!

- Dr. Afizah Ayob (UniMAP) - 0943
- Dr. Wan Asrina Bt. Wan Yahya (UPM) - 0944
- Mr. Mohamad Fakhri B. Ishak (FRIM) - 0945
- Mr. Mohd Taufik B. Mohd Yusuff (DOA) - 0946
- Mr. Mohd Nizar B. Khairuddin (UiTM) - 0947
- Mr. Jutom B. Ongkosing (DOA) - 0948
- Mr. Mohd Shafirun B. Mohd Azba (FELDA) - 0949
- Mr. Wong Shew Ngie (TPRL) - 0950
- Ms. Wan Amiza Amneera (UniMAP) - 0951
- Ms. Aini Azura Bt. Ali (ESPEK) - 0952
- Ms. Nurul Wahida Bt. Hani (UPM) - 0953
- Ms. Siti Salha Bt. Mohd Satar (UPM) - 0954
- Ms. Nurhaliza Bt. Mohamad Shahidin (UPM) - 0955

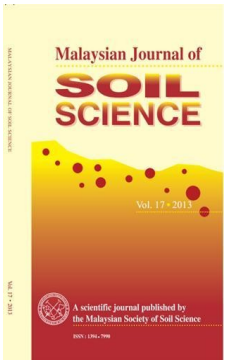
Membership is open to all professionals and graduate students, within and outside Malaysia. Please visit our website http://msss.com.my/apply.htm.

ON SALE!

Please contact us for enquiries or purchase of MSSS publications (Proceedings, Journals, and Books). Please visit our website http://www.msss.com.my/publications.htm

Congratulations to Prof. Shamsuddin Jusop and Ms. Jeyanny Vijayanathan for receiving the MSSS Education Grant worth RM 1, 000 to attend the 20th WCSS in Jeju, Korea.

MJSS - CALL FOR PAPERS



The Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (MJSS) is a scientific journal published by the Malaysian Society of Soil Science. It contains research papers in English on matters related to soil and soil-plant interactions. The journal welcomes original research works not previously or simultaneously published in any other scientific or technical journal from MSSS members as well as other scientists in Malaysia and abroad. The aim of the journal is to promote the development of soil science in Malaysia, other tropical and subtropical regions. **MJSS is a peer-reviewed, fully open access journal, is now indexed by Scopus and published annually.** Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website http://www.msss.com.my/mjss/index.htm

Announcements!

- 20th World Congress of Soil Science, Jeju, Korea, 8-13 June 2014
- UNSAT 2014, Unsaturated Soils: Research & Applications, Sydney Australia, 2-4 July 2014
- DOA-MSSS Soil Correlation, Pahang, Malaysia, 19-20 August 2014
- International Soil Science Congress on 'The Soul of Soil and Civilization, Turkey, 14th October, 2014
- 6th Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping, Nanjing, China, 11-14 November, 2014
- First Global Soil Biodiversity Conference, France, 2-5 December 2014

Contact us

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