EXPLORING MALAYSIA-TAIWAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE AND BIOMATERIALS SECTORS

By Wong Tin Wui

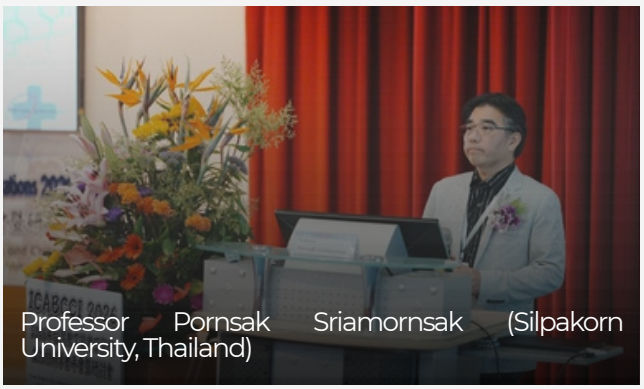
On ***25-26 June 2026,***

National Chiayi University and Universiti Teknologi MARA co-organised the International Conference on Agriculture, Biomaterials, and Chitin-Chitosan Innovations 2026 along with the 2026 Annual Meeting and Symposium of Taiwan Society for Chitin and Chitosan (https://icabcci2026.ncyu.edu.tw/index.php). The grand event was held at the International Networking Academy, National Chiayi University, Taiwan, and was supported by the National Science and Technology Council Taiwan and Tainan District Agricultural Research and Extension Station (DARES), Ministry of Agriculture, Taiwan.

The theme of the conference was From Farm to Life: Integrating Biotech, Pharma, Agriculture and Nano, Chitin Materials for A Sustainable Future. The plenary speakers were Professor Hyun Jin Park, Korea University, and Professor Jun-Ichi Kadokawa, Kagoshima University, Japan who shared about 3D-printed foods, including plant-based meat, and chitin-chitosan derivative chemistry. The keynote speakers were Professor Jun-Yang Lai (Chang Gung University, Taiwan), Professor Beom-Jin Lee (Ajou University, Korea), Professor Pornsak Sriamornsak (Silpakorn University, Thailand), Professor Sudesh Kumar (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia), Associate Professor Suresh Awale (Toyama University, Japan), and Professor Dwi Siswanta (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia). The keynotes highlighted advanced drug delivery and discovery strategies, biomaterial synthesis via biomass conversion and green technology design through material and formulation development.



Professor Beom-Jin Lee (Ajou University, Korea)



Professor Pornsak Sriamornsak (Silpakorn University, Thailand)



Professor Sudesh Kumar (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia)

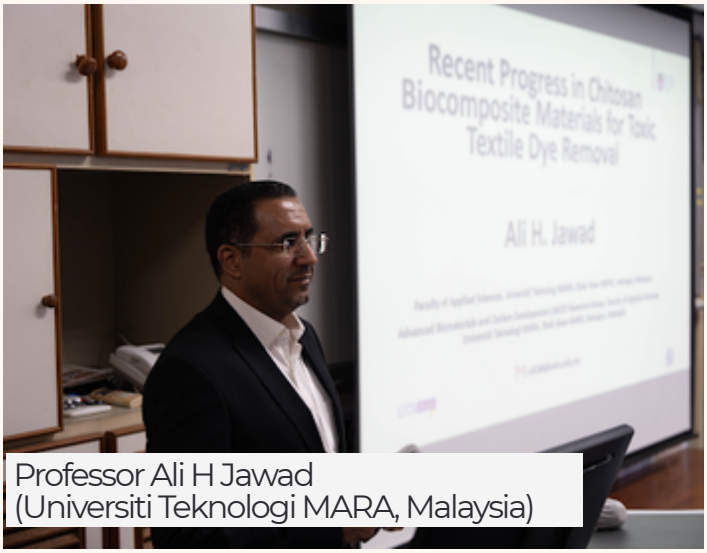


Associate Professor Jhi Biau Foo (Taylor's University, Malaysia)

A total of 17 invited lectures were delivered. Among all, Malaysian representatives, namely Associate Professor Jhi Biau Foo (Taylor's University, Malaysia), Dr. Thaigarajan Parumasivam (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia), Professor Ali H Jawad (Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia), and Dr. Muhammad Hakimin Shafie (Universiti Sains Malaysia) shared their research outcomes related to extracellular vesicles for skin applications, adjunct tuberculosis nano-therapy, chitosan biocomposites as sustainable green technology and neem polysaccharides as cosmeceuticals.



Professor Dwi Siswanta (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia).



Professor Ali H Jawad
(Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia)

Twelve Malaysian delegates from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Taylor's University, and Universiti Sains Malaysia joined the conference. Sixty-six oral and poster presentations were delivered over the two-day event. The Malaysian delegates won the best oral presentation prize.

In conjunction with the efforts to promote chitin, chitosan and biomaterial sciences, the Malaysia Chitin, Chitosan and Biomaterial Society was established in June 2026. The society comprises researchers and academicians from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Taylor's University, Monash University Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS and Universiti Malaya. The 24th International Symposium on Microencapsulation will be organised in Kuala Lumpur to instil research and educational interest in micro- and nano-encapsulation of drugs, herbal therapeutics, nutrition, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, cosmetics, pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers, colorants, flavours, engineered materials, and biomaterials etc from the perspectives of material sciences, formulation strategies, processing technology, discovery and delivery breakthroughs, innovation and business development, and regulatory affairs, covering both fundamental and applied knowledge.



Dr. Thaigarajan Parumasivam
(Universiti Sains Malaysia)



Dr Muhammad Hakimin Shafie
(Universiti Sains Malaysia)

BEST ORAL PRESENTATION:



Muhamad Haziq A. Hamid
Universiti Sains Malaysia



Murodjon Shukurjonov
Universiti Sains Malaysia