UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UiTM

MED BULL'

NO.2/2023

Menyerlahkan Potensi
Membentuk Masa Hadapan

UiTM *di hatiku*

Forensic Entomology Workshop 2023

Mohd Yusri Idorus
Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB)

Faculty of Medicine and IMMB are honored to host and welcome lecturers and students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) who participated in the Forensic Entomology Workshop 2023, starting from February 20 until February 24, 2023. This five-day workshop consisted of a series of lectures, discussions, and fieldwork attended by 38 NUS students, including 17 Master's students in forensic science. The delegation from NUS was led by Assoc. Prof. Stella Tan (Associate Provost for Student Conduct and Director of the Forensic Science Program at NUS), Dr. Shawn Lee, and Mr. Ng Wei Bo.

On the very first day of this workshop, participants had the opportunity to visit the IMMB laboratory facility, which was followed by a brief explanation session of the workshop led by Assoc. Prof Dr. Heo Chong Chin and Assoc. Prof. Stella Tan. In preparation for practical and fieldwork sessions, participants were also divided into several groups. Then, students were exposed to the basics of entomology through a lecture by AP. Dr. Heo with the title 'Introduction to General Entomology' and 'Introduction to Forensic Entomology.' In the afternoon, participants were given time to prepare fly traps, and then the traps were placed in the determined field area according to their groups.

On the second day, they started as early as 8.30 am with the trap's inspection. The traps need to be checked, improved, and adapted to the current weather conditions to ensure the trap functions appropriately. After the morning inspection, lectures started with the talk

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Heo and Dr. Abby Jones. In these lectures, participants were exposed to how to collect, identify, classify, and preserve flies for observation and research. The second day ended with the MOA Exchange Ceremony between UiTM and NUS, which was also attended by the top management of the UiTM, students, and the media.

On the third day, participants had the opportunity to observe and collect insects in the field. Insects were then studied through classification and observation. The source of these insects was chicken carcasses that had been rotted for several days. This mimicked the real situation of corpse decay in a crime or accident. Apart from this fieldwork, participants were also exposed to forensic science through a lecture entitled Identification of Flies of Forensic Importance and Forensic Acarology.

On the 4th day, participants had the opportunity to listen to the sharing of studies and experiences of researchers from the FUN ENTO LAB research group led by AP. Dr. Heo and his team members; Dr. Tania Ivorra, Dr. Abby Jones, Mr. Abdul Rahman Kazim, Ms. Nur Adilla Zaini, Ms. Nurul Azmiera Zamri, and Ms. Nur Aliah Natasha Azmi.

In the afternoon, participants had the chance to visit Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). Here, participants learned about plant species diversity and had the opportunity to observe insect specimens in the entomology museum.

The final day began with lectures by AP. Dr. Heo, with the title of 'Application of Forensic Entomology' and a special lecture by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Razuin Rahimi , a forensic pathologist at UiTM, under the heading 'Forensic Entomology: From Autopsy to the Courtroom.' Afterward, the participants presented their respective task results by groups and were assessed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thuhairah Hasrah Abdul Rahman (the Deputy Dean of Research & Innovation at the Faculty of Medicine UiTM), AP. Stella Tan and AP. Dr. Heo as the judge.

At 5.00 pm, AP. Dr. Thuhairah, and AP. Stella Tan gave the concluding remark and certificates presentation during the Closing Ceremony of the Forensic Entomology Workshop 2023. We hope more collaboration will be initiated between UiTM and NUS in the near future following the successful forensic entomology workshop.