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**SOARING
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From 3 to 5 March 2016, 17 students taking the Diploma in Food and Technology (AS1164A) in UiTM Sarawak made academic visits to the Malaysia Nuclear Agency (MNA), the Food Technology Department, UiTM Shah Alam, the UniKL MICET and also to a few international food industries in Selangor and Negeri Sembilan such as the Beryl's Chocolate Factory and Yakult. Although the main purpose of this academic trip was to fulfil the requirement for the FST 254 Principle of Food Preservation course, it also aimed to broaden the students' knowledge, to strengthen their relationship and also to expose them to the real situation of food technologies in Malaysia, particularly in international Halal food industries. This trip was financially funded by Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Akademik Pelajar (TAPAP).

Day 1: 3 March 2016 (the Food Technology Section, the UniKL MICET, Melaka and the Food Tech Department, UiTM Shah Alam)

The 3-day visit began with a visit to the Food Technology Section, Universiti Kuala Lumpur-Malaysian Institute of Chemical and Bioengineering Technology (UniKL MICET) located in Alor Gajah, Melaka. The briefing session was conducted by Encik Ramli Man, the Senior Lecturer in the Food Technology section. In this session, En Ramli shared his almost thirty-year experience as a researcher in food technology and processing in MARDI. He also highlighted several achievements made by the Food Technology Section, UniKL MICET. After the briefing session, the students were brought to food laboratories such as food processing and packaging lab, sensory evaluation lab, food chemical analysis lab, food microbiology lab and bioengineering lab. During the laboratory visits, the students were introduced to several high-technology instruments including pilot-scale freeze dryer which had just been bought by UniKL. The students also had the opportunities to taste the canned Biryani Rice and Chicken Curry and freeze dried lemon products produced by the Food Technology Section of UniKL MICET. In UiTM Shah Alam, the welcoming speech and briefing session were given by Dr. Normah Ismail who is the Head for Food Tech Programme. Dr. Normah concisely explained the enrollment requirements including the programme structure for the Bachelor of Food Technology (AS246) which is offered in UiTM Shah Alam. After the briefing session, the students visited the laboratories. During the laboratory visits, the students had an informal knowledge-sharing session with the bachelor and postgraduate students who were doing experiments for their research projects.

Day 2: 4 March 2016 (the Malaysia Nuclear Agency, the MNA and the Beryl's Chocolate Factory)

The students had the opportunity to get first-hand information from Encik Halim, the Executive Officer in the Malaysia Nuclear Agency (MNA) on the radiation technology used on food. The two facilities visited were the Reactor TRIGA PUSPATI and the MINTec-Sinagama Irradiation Plant. The Reactor TRIGA PUSPATI (RTP) is the only nuclear reactor in Malaysia. TRIGA stands for training, research, isotope production and general autonomic. RTP is a pool type reactor where the reactor core sits at the bottom of a 7-meter high aluminum tank and this is surrounded



En-Ramli Man and the students after the briefing session at UniKL MICET



After the factory tour in Yakult Seremban Factory

by biological shields made of high density concrete. It incorporates facilities for advanced neutron and gamma radiation studies. The Sinagama Irradiation Plant is one of the facilities for the sterilization of medical devices, pharmaceutical products, food, herbs and spices, fruits, cosmetics and veterinary products. During the Beryl's Chocolate factory tour, the students were accompanied by Cik Siti, a staff from the Public Relation Department. The students were given a brief explanation on the history of cocoa planting and chocolate production, achievements of the company and how the company restores the quality of the chocolate via a video presentation and tour to the factory gallery before they visited the factory production area. The students were also given free product testing.

Day 3: 5 March 2016 (Yakult Malaysia Factory)

The student were briefed by Ms Choong Yee Evon, the Public Relations and Science Officer on the history of Yakult and the entire production processes including the operation of high-technology facility incorporated with the latest food processing equipment, packaging technology and many more. When we were there, the Malaysian Institute of Food Technology (MIFT) members were also there on a visit and so the Yakult team decided to combine the visit sessions. It was a great opportunity for the students to meet the MIFT members who comprised professionals from the food technology based- industries, research institutes as well as universities. The visits started with the viewing of the plant followed by an educational video show on the importance of good bacteria for a healthy digestive system. The tour took about one and a half hours and later during the question and answer session, questions were asked on the quality, standard and whether this health beverage product is halal.

PROGRAM NGABAS SARAWAK 2016

Oleh: Nur Amira Binti Ramlee

Pada 26 Februari 2016, seramai 30 orang ahli Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar Sesi 2015/2016 Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) telah mengadakan program Ngabas Sarawak 2016 di Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Sarawak. Program ini adalah bertujuan untuk membina jaringan intelek dengan badan kepimpinan pelajar di UiTM Sarawak selain mengadakan hubungan kerjasama dalam menjayakan hasrat Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT).

Antara perbincangan kami iaitu di antara MPP UiTM dan MPP UPSI ialah berkaitan dengan kebajikan pelajar, pembangunan sahsiah, hal ehwal akademik, dan kepimpinan mahasiswa universiti. Kami telah bertukar pendapat dan cadangan bagaimana untuk mencari solusi, alternatif dan cadangan untuk setiap permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh pelajar dan akan diajukan kepada badan kepimpinan sesebuah universiti di mana badan ini adalah medium antara pelajar dan pihak atasan.

Kami dari ahli MPP UiTM Sarawak sangat berbesar hati menerima kedatangan ahli MPP UPSI kerana memilih UiTM Sarawak untuk sesi yang sangat berguna ini. Sesi perbincangan meja bulat kami berakhir setelah semua objektif diskusi tercapai.





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