RE-ENGINEERING THE AGRO-FORESTRY PARK: THE CASE OF MALAYSIA AGRICULTURE PARK BUKIT CAHAYA SERI ALAM SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR

SAMSIDA BINTI MAT SALLEH (2003430317)
WAHIDA BINTI SHARIFF (2003430404)
SHAHNAZ HARIS B. MOHAMAD (2002637947)
RIZAL FARIZ B. FAISAL (2003430006)

FACULTY OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UITM)
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter			Page
Letter of Transmittal			i
Declaration of Original Work			ii
Acknowledgement			iti
Table of Content			iv
Abbreviation			viii
List of Tables			ix
List of Figures			×
Executive Summary			×i
CHAPTER 1 :	INTRODUCTION		
	1.0	Background of the Study	1
	1.1	Organization Background	2
		Overview of MAP	
	1.2	Concern of MAP	5
	1.3	Objective of the Study	6
	1.4	Scope of the Study	. 7
	1.5	Significance of the Study	7
	1.6	Limitation of the Study	7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tourism has become a potential growth industry which contributes the largest in services receipts and third largest foreign exchange earner to the country. The strong performance of the tourism industry is reflected by the increase in number of tourist arrival to Malaysia. In 1987, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken the initiative to introduce and develop the idea of agriculture activities as one of the tourism industry. Further to this, Ministry of Agriculture has developed a forest with the concept of agroforestry known as Malaysia Agriculture Park (MAP), Bukit Cahaya Seri Alam, Shah Alam Selangor. At initial stage, MAP was well accepted by the public which managed to attract about 500,000 visitors a year. However, the numbers of visitors began to decline greatly since 1993, where the park only received 98,147 visitors in 2004.

Due to the concern of this continuing declining number of visitors and other factors such as abandoned and unattractive facilities and attractions, lack of resources and negative customers' perception on the park has lead the researchers to undergo the study on "The Reengineering of Agro-Forestry Park: The Case of Malaysia Agriculture Park" with the objectives to establish the current status of MAP, to reengineer MAP to be preferred tourism destination and to suggest appropriate business strategies in order to achieve MAP's founding vision and mission.

In achieving the objectives, the researcher has develop the academic construct model which is used to ensure that the determined objectives are achieved. The model comprises the evaluation of the current status of MAP that is the corporate audit, the key success factors, the reengineering process and business strategy for MAP.

The evaluation of the current status of MAP emphasized on the corporate audit of MAP and as a result, core competencies were determined. Further, the key success factors of the related tourism industry were identified and key success factors for MAP were determined based on the tourism industry analysis.

The corporate audit was done by using the appropriate analytical methods. The analyzing method or tools that being used were SWOT analysis, Ansoff analysis, BCG Growth Share Matrix and GE Matrix.

As a result of the analysis done, there were several weaknesses identified that need improvement by MAP management. Therefore, it will be a challenge to MAP to resolve the identified problems and weaknesses. Based on the findings, the researcher would suggest that MAP reengineer its current organization in achieving to be the preferred agro-forestry tourism destination. Being historically as excellent contributor to Malaysia tourism industry, it is not possible for MAP to be the same in future by exploring business opportunities, market its products excessively and penetrate the potential market locally and internationally. Further, the business strategies proposed to MAP are MAP to be the development centre of excellence, to expand its market, to develop collaboration and network and to reengineer internal processes involving the human resource, information technology, financial, administration and customer management.

As conclusion, Malaysia Agriculture Park is a good site to develop to be the preferred tourism destination based on the strength and opportunities that can be the pushing factors of the success of MAP as tourism destination.