

**PERSATUAN SAINS TANAH MALAYSIA**  
**THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
(Inaugurated on 2nd April 1971, Reg. Number 985 Selangor)  
**Issue: 01 (09/10)** **April 2010**

**MESSAGE FROM MSSS PRESIDENT**

*It has been nearly a year since the appointment of MSSS management committee 2009/2010 in Terengganu that witnessed a new line-up of members from the agriculture fraternity which was entrusted to continue the success of previous management led by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hanafi. As mandated in the MSSS constitution, the society, with the use of its resources, is to become one of the platforms in this region to disseminate and share knowledge for the betterment of food production especially in the tropical cropping systems. This is evident by the recognition of the World Phosphate Institute and Universiti Putra Malaysia to jointly organize an international conference on "Balanced Nutrient Management for Tropical Agriculture" from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 until 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Kuantan, Pahang. Hence, the annual SOILS conference will not be organized this year. Based on previous conferences such as SOILS2009 and SOIL2008, continuous interest and support were received from local and international stakeholders to ensure the success of the event. Therefore, it is our hope that the incoming conference will attract good audience and leave a positive impact to the participants.*

*In addition to the annual conference, the society had organized a seminar on "The effect of manure application on carbon dynamics and budgets in managed grassland of Southern Hokkaido, Japan" by Mariko Shimizu of Hokkaido University, Japan. In the international arena, Dr. Lulie Melling represented MSSS in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the East & Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science (ESAFS2009) in Seoul, Korea.*

*The involvement of Dr. Lulie in ESAFS2009 was mainly to promote MSSS activities and to strengthen the network with other members of ESAFS. It is also worth mentioning the commendable effort taken by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Che Fauziah Ishak (Chief Editor) and the editorial board, to make Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (MJSS) from volume 1 until 13 available for free in the MSSS website.*

*It is our greatest hope that the findings could be shared by others and at the same time increase the acceptance of MJSS to the world of soil science. To further promote soil science to wider society, MSSS had recently introduced "Best Final Year Project Award" which opens to all undergraduate students from local public and private higher learning institutions. Furthermore, a new "Soil Judging Contest" framework is being drawn to inculcate the interest of the younger generation.*

*Since MSSS is a non-profit organization, all its activities will rely on the generous donation and membership fees. Therefore on behalf of the society, I would like to seek your continuous support by updating your annual subscription fee. As the year comes to an end, a special word of thanks goes to those who I have associated with especially the MSSS management committee 2009/2010. I hope that all MSSS members could view the new horizon ahead hoping for a better society.*

*Thank you.*

*Dr. Shahrakbah Yacob*  
*MSSS President 2009/2010*

**2009 / 2010 MSSS Management Committee**  
Management Committees elected during the 37<sup>th</sup> MSSS AGM held on 13th April 2009 are:

**President :**

Dr. Shahrakbah Yacob (AARSB)

**Immediate Past President :**

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hanafi Musa (UPM)

**Vice President (Peninsular Malaysia) :**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Che Fauziah Ishak (UPM)

**Vice President (Sarawak) :**

Dr. Lulie Melling  
(Tropical Peat Research Laboratory Unit, Sarawak)

**Vice President (Sabah) :**

Dr. Normah Awang Besar@ Raffie (UMS)

**Hon. Secretary :**

Mr. Zulkefli Malik (MARDI)

**Hon. Asst. Secretary :**

Ms. Norziana Zin Zawawi (MARDI)

**Hon. Treasurer :**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anuar Abdul Rahim (UPM)

**Hon. Asst. Treasury :**

Mr. Sim Choon Cheak (AARSB)

### **Committee members :**

Choo Seh Bah (DOA)  
Dr. Muhamad Radzali Mispan (MARDI)  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jamal Talib (UPM)  
Vijiandran Juva Rajah (UP)

### **Co-opt member :**

Dr. Paramanathan (PASS)

### **Auditors :**

Prof. Dr. Shamsuddin Jusop (UPM)  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanif (UPM)

### **Chief Editor MSSS Journal :**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Che Fauziah Ishak (UPM)

### **Our MSSS Representatives in respective NGOs :**

- ❖ **Balai Iktisas Malaysia (BIM):**  
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hanafi Musa (UPM)  
Dr. Lulie Melling (DOA, Sarawak)
- ❖ **Confederation of Scientific and Technological Associations in Malaysia (COSTAM) :**  
Dr. Shahrakbah Yacob (AARSB)  
Mr. Zulkefli Malik (MARDI)
- ❖ **SIRIM Fertilizer Committee :**  
Mr. Teo Chor Boo
- ❖ **SIRIM Technical Committee on Soil Quality :**  
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hanafi Musa

## **HIGHLIGHT OF SOIL SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2009**

Issues on soil health had captured the attention of over 150 registered participants comprising researchers, academicians, postgraduate students, extension agents, stakeholder, exhibitors, NGOs and public sectors. This is because soil degradation from intensive cultivation, mechanization, limited crop rotations, and lack of organic matter additions has reduced yield potential. The conference was held in Primula Beach Resort, K. Terengganu, Terengganu from 13th - 15th April 2009 with the theme "Soil Health: Preserving Resources for Sustainable Agriculture".

A total of 1 keynote paper, 2 Fellow MSSS papers, 23 papers and 47 posters covering a wide range of topics including soil characteristics, plant health, soil waste management and environment, fertilizer management and pedometric were presented. Several exhibitors also took the opportunity to display their agricultural-based products such as advisory services, planting materials, fertilizers, machinery, tools & equipment and local products.

To complement the conference, a post-conference tour was organized in Setiu District, Terengganu. The tour was on soil correlation of BRIS soils which included 4 pits that covered Baging Series, Jambu Series, Rhu Tapai Series and Rudua Series. The tour was led by Mr. Choo Seh Bah from DOA Putrajaya, who briefed the participants on the different types of BRIS soils found in that area. The tour also visited Liza Pitaya Plantation, one of the Taman Kekal Pertanian Makanan (TKPM) projects under DOA authority.

All in all, it can be stated that this conference was a full success in providing an overview of ongoing soil research and an outlook in the future development of soil sciences as one important indicator of sustainable agriculture.

### **MSSS 2009 AWARDS**

The following MSSS Fellowships and Awards were conferred to the following recipients in recognitions of their achievements during SOILS 2009 Conference that was held on 13-14 April 2009 in K. Terengganu:

#### **MSSS Fellowships (FMSoil) Award :**

Prof. Dr. Hj. Zin Zawawi Hj Zakaria ( UNIMAS)

#### **Best Soil Science Student Award :**

Miss Rul Hajar Muda

#### **Best Secondary School Student Awards :**

1. Sheikh Muhammad Huzaifah b. Tharmizudeed  
*SMK Panji Alam*
2. Ahmad Nawawi b. Ngah  
*SMK Tengku Bariah*
3. Nur Atiqah bt. Ramli  
*SMK Manir*
4. Muhammad Amirul Haqimi b. Abdul Rahman  
*SMK Belara*

### **Post conference tour on soil correlation of BRIS soils in Setiu District, Terengganu**



Prepared by: Norziana Zin Zawawi (MARDI)

**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA  
FEDERATION OF SOIL SCIENCE (ESAFS9),  
27-30 OCT 2009, SEOUL, KOREA**



**Theme: Soils as a Convergent Technology in Tandem with Human and Ecosystem Health**

The main function of ESAFS has accomplished the most important functions assigned to our soil related to substantiality of soil fertility and productivity with efficient use of nutrients and water, and protection of global and regional environments, in collaboration with scientists throughout ESAFS countries as well as abroad.

About 400 soil scientists from 30 countries participate at this conference and about 300 papers were presented throughout the conference.

During the **ESAFS9 Business Meeting**, there were several agenda proposed which were for future development of ESAFS which were as follows:

1. Selection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESAFS Awardee
2. Official logo for ESAFS
3. Expansion of ESAFS member countries
4. Construction of mailing lists for member countries
5. Preparation of ESAFS official homepage
6. Preparation of ESAFS Funds
7. Efficient way to publish the ESAFS Newsletter
8. Next ESAFS Meeting: Sri Lank (2011) and Indonesia (2013)

**1. ESAFS Award**

The ESAFS was awarded to Prof. Zueng-Sang Chen of China who was nominated both by The Soil Science Society of China (SSSC) and The Korean Society of Soil Science and Fertilizer (KSSSF)

**2. Official logo of ESAFS**

It has been finalized that the official logo of ESAFS is to maintain the logo used for ESAFS9

**3. Expansion of ESAFS member countries**

Core members shall consist of any scientific societies concerned with soil science, plant nutrition and fertilizer management and technology in any countries in East

and Southeast Asia where rice-based cropping system is an important component of agricultural production system.

The Federation welcomes the societies which are located outside of the region but interested in the activities of the Federation as the associate members for promoting the objectives of ESAFS together.

**4. Construction of mailing lists for members from member countries**

It has been agreed that the mailing lists for members from member countries for ESAFS activities is necessary to be construct for the webpage to share information without releasing into any individual or commercial use.

**5. Preparation of ESAFS official homepage**

The official ESAFS homepage which has been well managed by the Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition is as below:

<http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jssspn/eng/ESAFS/esafs-ky.html>

**1. Preparation of ESAFS Funds**

The fund is still currently being managed by the Japanese and there is still a continuous discussions about the necessity of ESAFS Funds for ESAFS activity in the future.

**2. The ESAFS Newsletters**

Until now, 13 Newsletter have been published and archived in the above URL under leadership of Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (JSSSPN). ESAFS host country will publish two newsletters: one is for the country report and the other is for ESAFS Conference.

**3. Next ESAFS Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> ESAFS – 2011 : Sri Lanka  
11<sup>th</sup> ESAFS – 2013 : Indonesia  
12<sup>th</sup> ESAFS – 2015 : Thailand

The 9<sup>th</sup> ESAFS stress the importance of international cooperation is the best and the most responsible means we have to respond to the importance and need of soils for our human beings.

*Reported by : Dr. Lulie Melling*

## \*MSSS NEWS\*

### A. BEST FINAL YEAR PROJECT AWARD IN SOIL SCIENCE

The purpose of this award is to recognize and reward excellence performance of under graduate students conducted final year project in the area of Soil Science. The Award will be given out once a year. An amount of RM 1000.00 will be awarded to the winner. This award is open to all under graduate students from any higher learning institutions in Malaysia. To qualify for this award, the Dean of Faculty from the institution may nominate one candidate. Nominations should be returned to the Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) management committee by end of March, prior to the annual MSSS conference. The administration of this award is the responsibility of the MSSS management committee. Specific information and deadlines will be highlighted in the MSSS websites.

#### • **General Terms of Reference**

The award winner shall receive a cash award and certificate, which is set from time to time by the MSSS management committee.

1. The committee reserves the right to withhold making an award in any given year.
2. The committee shall appoint the **Award selection committee**.
3. Administration of the Award and amendment or alteration of these terms of reference shall be the sole responsibility of the MSSS management committee.
4. The award will be presented during the annual conference of MSSS.

#### • **Eligibility**

The criteria for the award shall include the following:

- Student must demonstrate clarity and originality of thesis in the area of Soil Science.
- Student must obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.0 or above.
- Nominations for this Award shall be made by the Dean of the Faculty.

#### • **Application**

A nomination letter shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty. Nomination letters shall be accompanied by supporting documentation, including:

- Curriculum vitae
- Thesis

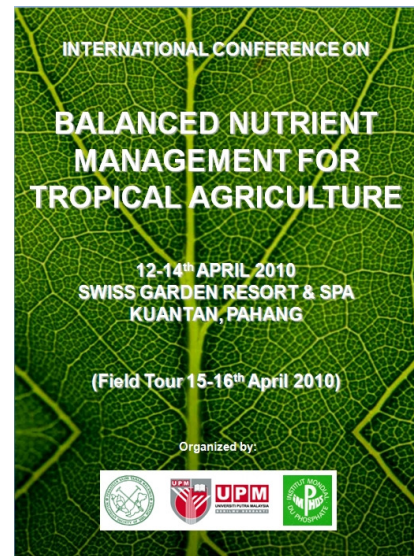
### B. MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE (MSSS) SOIL JUDGING CONTEST

The soil judging contest framework is currently being drawn the MSSS management committee. It is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the next SOILS conference. The main objective of the contest is to create awareness and interest of the younger generation on the importance of soil science and agriculture in general. Our main targets are students studying at certificate or diploma level at the local and private agriculture related institutions or colleges.

- C. Free online publications of Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (MJSSS) are available at <http://www.msss.com.my/>

***CALENDAR 2010 :***  
**FUTURE CONFERENCE**

❖ 19th World Congress of Soil Science,  
1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> August 2010, Brisbane, Australia



For further enquiry, please contact:  
**THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE**  
Department of Land Management, Faculty of  
Agriculture, 43400 Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(UPM), Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<http://www.msss.com.my/>