MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE(MSSS)

NEWSLETTER Dec 2015 Issue 3

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The MSSS committee wishes all members a prosperous Happy New Year 2016 !!

Inter-Professional Game – Joint Bowling Tournament. 17th May 2015

Bowling lovers from various institutions registered under Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) were welcomed to join the bowling tournament which was successfully organized by Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia which coincides with their annual gathering. The event, which was also acknowledged as BIM Inter-Professional Game was held on May 17th, 2015 in Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort, Kuala Lumpur. The event brought together 39 participants from various institutions and the BIM board members. Fundamentally, this inter-professional game was set up to provide opportunities for BIM professional members to interact and to network with professionals of other Member-Institutions. Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) president, Dr Wan Rasidah Abdul Kadir also made an appearance and was supportive throughout the event, while the MSSS Hon. Secretary; Dr Rosazlin Abdullah alongside Dr Khanom Simarani and Miss Norsyuhada Japri made up the MSSS team.

The field day was launched by BIM Vice President, Dato' LAr Ismail Ngah. The BIM Vice President took part in the games alongside Dato' Vincent Ng In Hooi from Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM) and Dato' Abd Radzak Abd Malek from Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM). The game started at 11 am in the morning and ended at 1 pm. Morning tea and light refreshments were prepared by the organizer for participants before the game started. The grand winner was Garis Architect's team which grabbed the coveted title with a total score of 777. Another team from ILAM finished as first runners-up with a total score of 717 while the team from Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) was placed as the second runner-up with a total score of 702. MSSS took the 6th place with a total score of 647, not bad for a greenhorn! Eventually, winners were celebrated and claimed their prizes during the BIM Annual Dinner which was held on June 10th 2015 at Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur. *Text and Picture by Norsyuhada Japri, Universiti Malaya*

1. Dr Mohd Effendi bin Wasli - 0971
2. Mugunthan A/L Perumal - 0972
3. Ho Soo Ying - 0973
4. Emilda Anak Edwin Samaie - 0974

Membership is open to all professionals and graduate students, within and outside Malaysia. Please visit our website http://msss.com.my/apply.htm. FEES : RM50.00 per year for ordinary membership, *or* RM400.00 for life membership

Nutrient Deficiency Symptoms In Black Pepper Farm Planted at Hilly Area

Nutrient deficiency symptoms of pepper vines

The trip was organised on 26 October 2015 for Bac. Sc. Bioindustry (BSBI) students who enrolled for Crop Nutrition (CAG4000) course. The aim of this trip was to expose the students to identify nutrient deficiency symptoms and management practices in black pepper farm that has been planted on hilly areas. The farm which is located at Samarakan Road, Bintulu, belongs to Mr Jambai A/K Ango, an Iban ethnic and has been involved in black pepper cultivation since his teenage years. Students were divided into five groups to gather information such as in-situ measurement, pest and diseases infection, the existence of nutrient deficiency symptoms for pepper vines planted between the top and bottom slope, soil and plant sampling, and land mapping. Mr. Jambai explained to the students about the selection of stem for propagation purpose, pruning techniques, and harvesting index of black pepper berries. They were given the opportunity to harvest the fruit spike which had at least one of the berries turned into orange-yellowish colour. Samples were brought back to campus for analysis to determine NPK status and to be compared with the recommended value by the Malaysian Pepper Board (MPB). Students were required to present the results and give recommendation on the best ways to manage the farm area which is exposed to surface run-off.

Mr. Jambai sharing session with the student s

According to Mr. Jambai, he has been involved in black pepper cultivation since 1974 and received an earlier training from his late father and later on by MPB. He had successfully grown 1,500 pepper vines aged from 3 months to 5 years with a total area of 1 hectare and intend to grow up 3,000 vines by 2016. Based on his experience, replanting activities in the area will be conducted every 10 years as the pepper becomes unproductive. A matured pepper vine was reported to produce 2 – 3 kg fruit spike during peak season. For the last year record, he had managed to sell 500 kg black pepper and 300 kg white pepper at the price of RM30/kg and RM50/kg depending on the variety and ringgit fluctuation. When asked about fertilizer application and managements, Mr. Jambai informed that NPK green and/or NPK blue fertilizers were applied depending on the crop season when there was chlorosis or scorching. The existence of both deficiency symptoms were obvious since the crop is planted on hilly area where the soil surface was mostly bare without cover crops. Apparently, this farm is currently one of the research site for MSc. project which investigates the distribution of NPK in six divisions of Sarawak. *Photo and text by Dr. Wan Asrina W. Yahaya, Izzah Abd Hamid, & Arni Japar, UPM Bintulu Campus*

Dear MSSS members, The 2nd Circular on IPC 2016 can be viewed at http://www.ipc2016.com/. Come and join us!

The 9th PSIPLH in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Photo and Text: Prof. Shamshuddin Jusop, MSSS Fellow

Croatia is a country of 1000 islands, with many visitors going there in summer for holidays, especially to the old city of Dubrovnik. The 9th International Symposium on Plant-Soil Interaction at Low pH (9th PSIPLH) was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on October 18-23, 2015. The venue of the symposium was Neptune Hotel, Dubrovnik. Croatia is a country of barren rocky hills made of limestone , with low amount of rainfall throughout the year. The Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) was represented by three prominent members – the President of MSSS (Dr Wan Rasidah), the Head of Department of Land Management, UPM (Dr Radziah) and Dr Shamshuddin (Fellow of MSSS).

The 9th PSILPH was attended by many prominent scientists in the field of soil science and plant physiology from the four corners of the world. We had good discussion on the papers presented during the symposium. A field trip was organized to see Croatia in action in the middle of the symposium. The 10th PSIPLH will be held in Malaysia, to be organized by UPM, with the support of MSSS. The proposed venue was the Marriott Putrajaya to be held late June 2018.

Cruise ship carrying tourists docked at the Dubrovnik Port

The MSSS delegates with other international scientists

The limestone on which Hotel Neptune was built

Highlights: MSSS Fellow

Name: Associate Professor Ahmad Husni Mohd. Hanif
Current position : Lecturer, Soil Management Department, UPM Serdang since 1990
Education History: M Sc. at West Texas A & M and PhD at Auburn, Alabama, USA
Awards: National Service Award (faculty or university level) since 2010,
IP: 4 patents for fertilizer & compost products, 3 commercialized
Significant Publications: 41 journal from 2005-2015, 7 chapters in books, 17 proceedings
Research Interest: Soil fertility, fertilizer and nutrient management, carbon sequestration
MSSS contributions: President 2012-2014, committee member since 2010, member since 1990
Outlook on soil science on the next 20 years: Need to look at the soil biodiversity component and the role of microorganisms in decomposition and GHG emissions, plant diseases suppression
Key to success as a soil scientist: **No substitute** to hard work, have to do multi facet thinking and move towards integrated thinking. Need to challenge the conventional and break some rules in order to progress.
Hobbies: relaxing, reading books other than soil science books

Highlights: MJSS citation report

Ministry of Education established MyCite, a Malaysian citation indexing system in 2011. MCC's task was to control the bibliographic and citation information about Malaysian journals and whereever possible provide access to all journals' contents on the Web through its journal hosting to cover all scholarly journals published by Malaysian institutions and agencies. MCC will motivate journal publishers to request for indexation to improve the visibility and support the government's aspiration to improve Malaysian university ranking by improving the quality of Malaysian scholarly journals For details and information, please visit http://www.mycite.my

Jounal Name: Malaysian Journal of Soil Science
ISSN: 1394–7990
Total Article in 5 years : 44
Total article in 2 years : 16
5 year Malaysian Journal Impact : 0.023
Cited half life : 2.5
H –Index : 1

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name: (Prof. / Assoc. Prof / Dr. / Mr. / Ms.)

_____

Occupation: _____

Organization: _____

Mailling Address:_____

_____

_____

Tel:_____
E-mail:_____

( ) I wish to attend the conference
( ) I wish to present a paper(s)
( ) I wish to present a poster(s)
( ) I wish to participate in the conference tour

Title of paper / poster:

_____
_____
_____

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Please mail, e-mail or fax this form with a copy of **EXTENDED ABSTRACT** to:

The **SOILS 2016** Secretariat
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EXHIBITION

Those organizations interested in displaying their products (agriculture and laboratory) during the conference are welcome. Please contact the secretariat for details.

CONFERENCE TOUR

A conference tour will be organized on 7 April 2016. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the cost of logistics, materials and meals.

1st Announcement

SOILS 2016

Soil Science Conference of Malaysia 2016

Soil Improvement for Sustainable Crop Production

5 - 7 April 2016

TH Hotel & Convention Centre, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu

Jointly Organized by:

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

MSSS STUDENT AWARDEE: Siti Hafizah Bt Hamzah, B.Sc. Agric, UPM

RESEARCH ABSTRACT: ***Characterization Of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi From Areas Cultivated With Different Crops At Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang***

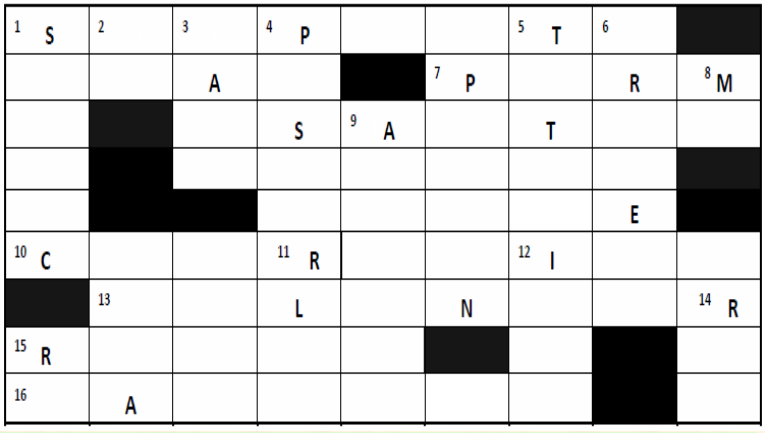
SUPERVISOR: ***Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radziah Othman, UPM***

A study was conducted to characterize arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) from areas cultivated with different crops at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang. Plant roots and soil samples were taken from areas cultivated with oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), banana (*Musa sp.*), coffee (*Coffea arabica*) trees, and Napier grass pasture (*Pennisetum purpureum*). The objective of this study was to determine the relationship between soil properties and the occurrence of AMF in different locations of cultivated areas. The soil samples were analysed for pH, soil moisture content, and nutrients (N, P, K, Ca, and Mg). A pot culture technique was used to propagate the indigenous AMF. Corn plant (*Zea mays)* was chosen as a host plant and was grown in pots for three months. Root infection assessment was done using staining method, and the number of spores was determined using wet-sieving method. Statistical analyses include Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and correlation coefficient. The result showed the presence of AMF in all four soils studied. The highest number of spores were observed in soil cultivated with banana compared to others. The pot culture technique successfully proliferated the AMF spores with an increment ranging 19-38% from the origin soil. Soil cultivated with banana showed the highest number of spores in the pot culture technique. The most dominant genera of AMF in all four soil studied were *Glomus sp.* and *Acaulospora sp.* There was no significant correlation between the number of spores and the soil physical-chemical properties except in the total nitrogen in soil planted with Napier grass. *Miss Hafizah was presented with a certificate of achievement and RM 1000 cash award by MSSS*

Zea mays at 2 months in pot cultures

Glomus sp. spores obtained from

SOIL CROSSWORD PUZZLE *Compiled by Mr. Pupathy, Sime Darby Plantations*



Answers in our next issue! Happy solving!

ACROSS

1. A type of acidic
10. Cationic power is measured
11. To do scoring for soil productivity
13. A state or series?
15. Reversely connected to 'TWO' Rhu trees on sandy soils
16. 'Jack' of all trades

DOWN

1. Last stage and not to be re'PEAT'ed.
2. Land where soil erosion is highly possible
3. Connected with "RUN'nning series
4. A series of 'knife' that cant be used for cutting
5. A local town where everybody says "DON'T KNOW"
6. A process of soil loss for an uphill slope
7. A type of water channel in Malay language
8. A main contributor for dark color in soils
9. Related to soil with Al and Iron
12. Sounds like "IBAN" and found in Sarawak

2015 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOIL

SOIL FUN RUN

HEALTHY SOILS FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

The FUN RUN Committee for the day

In conjunction with the International Year of Soil 2015, Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) with the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia and supported by the Department of Agriculture organized the Soil Fun Run 2015. The 5 km run was held at Bukit Expo, University Agricultural Park, University Putra Malaysia Serdang on World Soil Day, 5th December 2015. The objectives of this event was to encourage a healthy lifestyle, promote public awareness on the importance of soil and educate them on soil conservation. The run started at Padang Bukit Expo, crossing the farms and residential colleges in the green campus area. The program brought together over 180 participants consisting of students (locals and foreigners), soil enthusiasts and public from primary school students up to retirees. The program commenced at 7.30 am with the stretching session and the runners were released by MSSS President, Dr. Wan Rasidah Wan Abdul Kadir at 7.45 am. Along the run, participants were required to answer quizzes at every checkpoints and also participate in simple games like finding a marble in a pile of soil and determine the soil texture! From these activities every participant was able to experience the diversity of soil types and textures. The first three winners were presented with cash prizes and all the runners who completed the run were awarded with a finisher medal and a certificate. A mini exhibition on soil science was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture Malaysia to educate the attendees on the soil diversity and its importance. *Photo and text by Mohd. Fauzi M. Yusoff, Chairman of Soil Fun Run 2015*

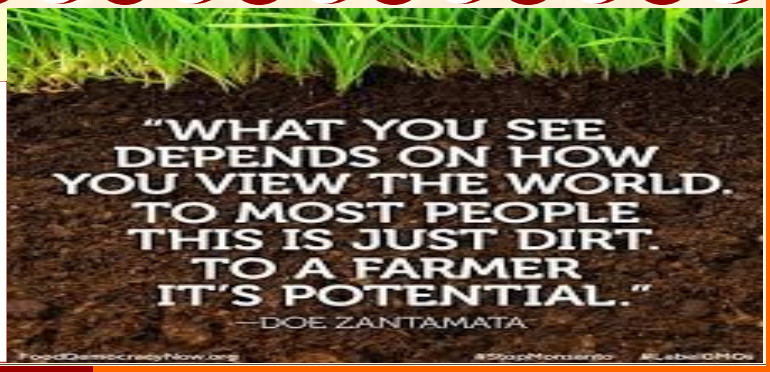
Warming up for the run

See we finished with medals too!

Ready, Set, Go!

Announcements!

- Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas
- Intersol 2016, Lille, France, 15-17 Mac 2016
- ISRIC Spring School, 9-13 May 2016
- EUROSOIL 2016, July 2016, Turkey
- New publications : Status of the World Soil Resources
- New publications: Soil Science Simplified, 6th Ed



2015 International Year of Soil
SOIL FUN RUN
HEALTHY SOILS FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

SOIL PHOTO CONTEST

'How deep is depth?'
Mr. Muhammad Firdaus Abdullah Sani
Universiti Malaya

Ms. Izat Ezatte Musa
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Mr. Pupathy Uthrapathy Thandapani
Sime Darby Berhad

2015 International Year of Soils

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

We are a big group of almost **300+ soil enthusiasts** and we like to hear from you! We are looking for article contributions on soil related issues, mainly

GENERAL ARTICLES: If you have a story/report about an activity related to soil, such as soil training/workshop/conference/ meetings; please send it along. A one – two page article with color pictures are encouraged.

YOUNG SCIENTIST: If you are currently a young soil scientist (below 40 years of age) working on a research project related to soil dynamics, you may send in your research article about 500 to 600 words which states on the intro, justification, brief methods, results and conclusion. Please include a digital photo as well.

SENIOR SCIENTIST: If you are currently a senior soil scientist (above 40 years of age) working on a research project related to soil dynamics, you may send in your research article about 500 to 600 words which states on the intro, justification, brief methods, results and conclusion. Please include a digital photo as well.

THE EASTERN CONNECTION: Dedicated for any soil research endeavors and information from Sabah and Sarawak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Of trainings or educational opportunities, forthcoming meetings, conferences or other international announcement regarding soil, agriculture, forestry, etc.

BOOK/PAPER REVIEW: If you have come across a recently published article you think may be of interest to other MSSS members, please alert the Newsletter Editor and we will highlight it for our readers. We give priority to publications by MSSS members but anything on soil research is welcomed.

ADVERTISMENTS: Submit your advertisement for RM 40 for half page and RM 80 for full page in our newsletter. Gain more visibility with your services and products!

Submission information: For text send a word document with Arial font (11) to jeyanny@frim.gov.my or rosazlin@um.edu.my and for photos .jpg is preferred. All submission will be scrutinized by the Editorial Board for suitability before publishing. Once approval, the Editorial Board will inform you with further details.

MJSS - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Malaysian Journal of Soil Science (MJSS) is a scientific journal published by the Malaysian Society of Soil Science. It contains research papers in English on matters related to soil and soil-plant interactions. The journal welcomes original research works not previously or simultaneously published in any other scientific or technical journal from MSSS members as well as other scientists in Malaysia and abroad. The aim of the journal is to promote the development of soil science in Malaysia, other tropical and subtropical regions. **MJSS is a peer-reviewed, fully open access journal, is now indexed by Scopus and published annually.** Instruction for authors and other details are available on our website http://www.msss.com.my/journals/instruct.php

IUSS has declared 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade of Soils

Contact us

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OBITUARY

Nyle C Brady, 1920-2015

The late NC Brady co authored 'The Nature & Properties of Soil'