

SerdangSUN

A Tradition of Giving, a Culture of Bonding

UPM Alumni Magazine

Another Son of Serdang Soil
The Money Wizard



SERDANG LADIES in HISTORY
giving & making a
difference

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Giving Back... CREATING LEGACY

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Lights & Verity

- Muhammad Sayuti
(MSc (Manufacturing System Engineering), 2006;
PhD (Manufacturing System Engineering), Semester 5, 2009/2010)

Enduring the unimaginable... UPM you are a part of me!



I come from Nagroe Aceh Darussalam in Pulau Sumatera, Indonesia. There are many similarities between Aceh and Malaysia in term of culture and language. The people in Aceh usually learn about Malaysia through Malaysian radio and television.



Since I was a child, I had an ambition to come and further my study here. I was a tutor at Universitas Malikussaleh in Lhokseumawe in Aceh when I was offered a scholarship by the Aceh Government to further my study in the field of Manufacturing System Engineering. So, on 20 December 2002, I arrived in Malaysia to do my Master degree (Course Work and Thesis). I choose to further my study at UPM because it is recommended

by my lecturer, Dr Hasan Yudie Sastra and also I knew about UPM through the internet. After receiving the offer letter, I departed for Malaysia from Belawan Port, Medan and Sumatera Utara by ferry. At that time there was no airline service between Aceh and Malaysia. I arrived in Penang and had to take a bus to Kuala Lumpur. Luckily I had a friend who studied in Universiti Malaya to help me in Kuala Lumpur.

After registering at UPM, I had a discussion with Prof. Dr. Shamsuddin Sulaiman, a lecturer at the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering UPM who later became my supervisor and also with Dr. Hasan Yudie Sastra, my associate supervisor. I was really enjoying my study here. The environment for study is comfortable and peaceful, the facilities are complete, with good transportation and the



library has many international journals. After one semester at UPM, I began to introduce and tell my friends in Aceh about UPM and the available facilities here. Five of my friends decided to further their study at UPM. I was also enjoying my study and may stay in Malaysia because I have a lot of friends from all races and we usually share our experiences and cultures. After two semesters and completing my 18 credit hours (6 subjects) of requirement, I started my proposal paperwork and experiments in the laboratory.

Finally, I started writing my thesis in June 2004 but it was delayed due to the Tsunami disaster that occurred in December 2004. A number of my relatives died in this tragedy and some of my research materials were also damaged.

In February 2005, I resumed my thesis writing and eventually submitted my thesis in April 2005 after publishing two articles in international journals. With the Blessing of Allah, I got my MSc

(Manufacturing System Engineering) in December 2005. My family was here with me to celebrate my success when I attended the UPM Convocation in August 2006.

After finishing my study, I returned to my hometown. In December 2007, again I decided to further my study to PhD in the same field and under the same supervisor at UPM. I had chosen UPM because I was so comfortable with the environment at UPM and I was also very close with my lecturers, supervisor and technicians. Besides that, all the facilities at UPM are very good especially the library, laboratory, classes, and transportation and many more.

There are many programs organized by the School of Graduate Studies including writing and publishing workshop, cracking the code and effective writing to assist graduate students including me, to do their research and write journal article. Furthermore it only takes 75 minute for me to fly from Malaysia to Aceh. To date I have completed three semesters of my study and I am doing my research under the Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF)

program. I have also presented some of my research finding at International Conference. As an International Student, I also joined the international student activities such as futsal, tennis, badminton and I am also involved in international night event held in UPM.

I am also active in *Persatuan Pelajar Indonesia (PPI)* and I became the Vice President for the 2008/2009 Committee. During my term, I proposed a number of programs to be carried out by PPI including Thursday evening discussion sessions, family gatherings, sports, music and orientation program for the new students. I take this opportunity to say my gratitude and thanks to all staff, lecturers and to the community in UPM for their help and assistance to ensure the success of the programs organized by PPI and my study program at this university.

I have no regret in choosing UPM and I will always recommend UPM not only to my fellow countrymen but also to other nationalities. Our stay in UPM will make us a better person.