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UMP TRAINS ENTREPRENEURS ON HERBAL EXTRACTION AND PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

BY: DR. AHMAD ZIAD SULAIMAN

The Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), MARA Entrepreneur Development Unit (PUSMA) and Centre of Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED) recently worked together to organise a workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge of its participants on local herbal extraction and processing techniques.

Nineteen participants from Pahang took part in the workshop which was held for three days

beginning June 10, 2013. All of them were fully sponsored by MARA.

The workshop was supervised by FKKSA senior lecturer Dr. Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman and assisted by Vocational Training Assistant Officers, Zainal Gimam and Zulhabri Khadisah.

According to Dr. Ziad, the training would help the participants understand the right techniques to extract herbs of high commercial value.

"Most of the participants are entrepreneurs of herbal-based products. As such, it is easier to explain to them about the herbs and the health

and medicinal benefits," he said.

He also said the participants were given the opportunity to conduct practical training at the laboratory where they carried out extraction process of two types of herbs - 'Haubatus Sauda' and 'Tongkat Ali'.

He added that from the process conducted, the participants were exposed to an application called High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), a tool that analysed the level of purity of the extraction.

He said most of the participants were satisfied with the programme and hoped that UMP would further help entrepreneurs in the herbal industry especially from Pahang to gain more knowledge in the extraction technology.

"They also wished that they could have access to the expertise available among UMP lecturers," he added.