SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY MEMBER

PROFESSOR MASHITAH MOHD YUSOFF, Physical Organic Chemist

Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff was born in Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang) in 1962, an only child of retired civil servants. After completing early education at the Convent School and then the Science School in Bukit Mertajam, she left for the United States to study chemistry.

Receiving early exposure to physical organic chemistry via ER Talaty (alumni of the Woodward school) at Wichita State led her to a comprehensive study of the modes of ring-opening of \( \alpha \)-lactams, highly strained heterocycles which are important precursors in biosynthetic processes. She also had a stint in WI Kelly’s lab while the latter was in Kalamazoo. Kelly had worked on single electron transfer reactions with Nathan Kornblum (also alumni of the Woodward school).

Joining Universiti Malaysia Sabah in 1998, she embarked on natural products research. As Deputy Director of the Institute for Tropical Biology & Conservation, she participated with national and international scientists in research activities centered on the rainforest and her communities.

She came aboard the then University College of Engineering & Technology Malaysia in August 2005 as Professor at the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering and pioneer Director of the Research Management Center. In March 2007, she became pioneer Dean of Graduate Studies.

In early 2008, her team wrote a proposal for the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology. In a life filled with many firsts, she was appointed Dean when the new faculty was approved by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Mashitah is a registered chemist with the Malaysian Institute of Chemistry and member of the Malaysian Natural Product Society, Malaysian Society of Tropical and Parasitology Medicine, and the Society for Medical Plant and Natural Product Research. A lifetime member of St John Ambulance Malaysia, she was previously State Superintendent of Nursing (Sabah).

She excitedly speaks of new facilities to be built in Gambang during the 10th Malaysian Plan. She believes the multidiscipline team at FIST can become the catalyst for new approaches in teaching and R&D, to produce a novel breed of knowledge science and technology professionals for the New Economy. She also looks forward to the launching of the Pahang Biodiversity Biotechnology Strategic Action Plan for which she was lead writer.

Eureka!

Universiti Malaysia Pahang,
Lubang Titiwangsa,
26300 Gambang, Pahang Darul Makmur
Phone: 09-5492765/2767
Fax: 09-5492766
e-Mail: fst@ump.edu.my
http://fst.ump.edu.my

Chief Editor
Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff
Deputy
Nurul Nadia Abd Razak
Photography
Suliffal Kamaluddin Muzakkir, Khatiru Aidilhishah Binti Rizan Jali
& Mohd Asyraf Othman
Layout and Design
Suliffal Kamaluddin Muzakkir & Nurul Nadia Abd Razak

Contributors
Jose Rajan & Aishah Mohd Yusoff

CLIENT CHARTER

We offer academic programs and activities, consultancy and R&D in Science and Technology, emphasising industrial elements as required by our stakeholders.

Published By
The Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology in collaboration with
Office of the Vice-chancellor