



Indian Graduates Association
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

Newsletter

(for Members only)

Issue 11: September 2009

**IGAUPM
Management
Committee
2009-10**

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Editorial -The H1N1 Pandemic

One man's meat is another man's poison! The whole escapade of the HINI has made some parties particularly the mask and the sanitizer companies richer. Students at schools were having a great time as they were advised by their teachers to wear a mask. Wonder why? Their face masks were extraordinary as facial features were used to decorate the masks, a famous one being the beaver-like teeth. I once even saw a girl with luscious lips on her mask, with the words: "No kissing on these lips". These masks were extremely popular at schools about a week before the school holidays with some even hoping for a early vacation but at this point of time the novelty of wearing a mask has somewhat worn off.



Despite the dangers of HINI, some seem to be taking it rather lightly. A male colleague of mine is joking away saying that there is a more dangerous virus than the HINI called the BINI. Of course you should try reading the I as "I", and you would see his meaning. I hope, jokes aside this guy is taking the necessary precautions. A pandemic may come and go in waves, and you never know when it hits hard. Folks, many have speculated that this guy (HINI) did not come around for a visit, well, he is here to stay. In such case, it would lead to high levels of illness, death, social disruption, and economic loss. Everyday life would be disrupted because so many people in so many places become seriously ill at the same time. Impacts can range from school and business closings to the interruption of basic services such as public transportation and food delivery.



One may ask where all this came from: This is the original swine flu cartoon that was released when the virus first made the news

Back to basics - HINI flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with HINI flu have occurred. Most commonly, these cases occur in persons with direct exposure to pigs (e.g. children near pigs at a fair or workers in the swine industry). Thus, it starts the long chain of a scary endeavor as human-to-human transmission of HINI. In addition, it also occurs easily through the same mechanism as seasonal flu, which is mainly through coughing or sneezing of people infected with the influenza virus. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Let me remind you, a "hands off face" curfew may be a good system to follow. However, for most of us who have a sinus problem may not be able to abide by this golden rule, just like me, I guess, those with a sinus problem would be sneezing up to a hundred times a day (note the exaggeration). The newspapers are doing a good job in disseminating information apart from the use of some bombastic words like "Epidemic", "Endemic", "Syndemic" and "Pandemic". Once I attended a conference where the speaker placed a slide which looked very much like a handkerchief which had been sneezed on. He started pointing at some spots and said this is "sucrose", that is "glucose", this one is "stachyose" continued with a couple more names and finally pointing at one last blob and said this is "Godnose". I hope we will not be in a situation where we are fighting a losing battle.

Take good care of your health.

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Every patient carries her or his own doctor inside.

Albert Schweitzer (French philosopher & physician)

Activity report

☉ The 9th Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The AGM and Dinner was held on the 14th of March 2009 at the Palm Garden Hotel in Putrajaya. The AGM was attended by 28 members. Thanks to all of their support the AGM began on time. For the first time, all three advisors of the association, Dr. A. Rajan, Mr. Manokaran and Dr. Sivapragasam were with us leading the way seated in the front row – a million thanks, gentlemen, for your unwavering support.

The AGM was conducted in a very civilized manner with the major agenda being the amendment to certain clauses in the constitution. The other point of interest was the report on activities. 2008 was a splendid year for IGAUPM under the helm of Dr. Kulanthayan K.C. Mani where a number of major events were successfully organised. Among the activities were : Health colloquium ; An afternoon with Yang Bahagia Dato' Vinod Sekhar ; and Higher Education Seminar

The Higher Education Seminar attracted a crowd of over 300 people and placed IGAUPM at a higher realm. Without doubt, with such an achievement, Dr. Kulanthayan was overwhelmingly retained as the president, with hopes to repeat last year's feat. Notably, a couple of swaps in portfolios were seen with some new faces in the team. We take this opportunity to welcome all the new committee members and thank those who served the association tirelessly during the last term. The list of new committee members are as listed on the left panel of page 1.

While some of us were tied up with the AGM, out in the foyer a crowd was building. The sounds of hustling and bustling of trying to catch up for lost time was clearly evident. The dinner began at 8.15 pm with a relatively large crowd of 130 guests. This is more that double the number of guest during the last dinner and it was a great event as IGAUPM was honored by the presence of Mr. Mathavan A. Chandran, Chief Executive Officer, Infovalley Group of Companies. Mr. Mathavan is a pure bred UPMite who graduated in Chemistry in the year 1992. He shared his entrepreneurial success with the guests especially the younger generation. The guests included those who had graduated from as early as 1977 and the forum provided them with a platform not only to meet their long lost friends, batch mates, juniors but also to establish network.

Apart from the good company, the food was excellent and we had great entertainment, some of the members made generous contributions for the lucky draw. In addition, the icing on the cake was the conferment of The Life Membership for their significant contributions and service to the society to Mr. Joseph Jude Gasper and Dr. Kulanthayan K. C. Mani. Well, they joined the four pioneer Life members, increasing the number of Life Members to six. Want to know something – for the very first time, the annual dinner received whole page coverage by the News Straits Times. The event was reported by Ms Kristina George and can be read through this url: http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/Streets/Wednesday/Stories/2511938/Article/.



**SUCCESS IS
THE ABILITY
TO GO FROM
ONE FAILURE
TO ANOTHER
WITH NO
LOSS OF
ENTHUSIASM**

Sir Winston Churchill

NEW

The IGAUPM website has been given a face lift. Make sure you visit: www.igaupm.org.my for all the interesting news about the activities of IGAUPM. The website also carries an invitation to become an IGAUPM family facebook. Do take a minute of your precious time to check it out!

Visit us online at <http://www.igaupm.org.my>

Upcoming Activities

o Higher Education Seminar 2009 ~ a write up on its importance

by Dr. Vickneswaran Nair

After more than many years of independence, has the Indian community in Malaysia carved for itself a productive role in the economy of the country? Is the very existence of the community significant to the nation? These are the two pertinent questions that every Indian in Malaysia should ask.

Every Malaysian has a duty to work constructively to help eradicate poverty, corruption and injustice so that their quality of life will improve. It is an acknowledged fact that education plays a major role for an improved quality of life. Education is an integral part of the socio-economic development of any community. Indians being the third predominant community in Malaysia can only progress through sound education. Education is the passport that will open the doors to the numerous opportunities that serve to improve living conditions and lifestyle.

Bearing that in mind, the Indian Graduates Association of UPM (IGAUPM), for the third year running, will be organizing:

The Higher Education Seminar on the 4th of October 2009 at Taylor's University College, Subang Jaya (8.30 am to 2.00 pm). The seminar carries the theme "Leveraging on Higher Education". Topics of discussions include: Effective study methods, Preparing your kids for Higher Education, Seeking Financial Assistance for Higher Education, Opportunities in Public Higher Education, Opportunities in Private Higher Education and Study Abroad Opportunities.

For further information please visit: www.igaupm.org.my

The Higher Education Seminar is just one of the many ways that we can assist the community to create awareness and support to be better equipped with the necessary knowledge for the competitive work environment in Malaysia. With the seminar, both the students and their parents will be able to get a broad picture of what higher education is all about and how this will open their doors to the many opportunities in life.

For any community, language and culture give it its identity, and education provides the medium by which that identity is transmitted to its members. Thus, the community must rely on education to move out of this vicious cycle that will continue to suppress their very existence in Malaysia.

o The 10th Annual Dinner ~ a write-up on its significance

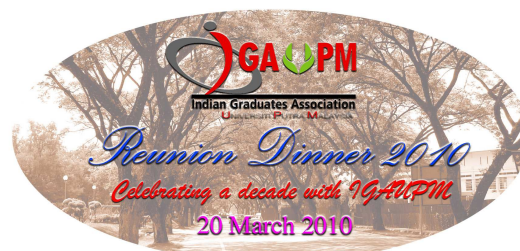
By Mr. Vijiandran Yuva Rajah

On 2 July 1999, some 200 graduates of Universiti Putra Malaysia gathered in the Grand Ball Room of the then Mint Hotel to celebrate the 25 years Silver Jubilee of the UPM Hindu Society (PHUPM), an association where most Indian graduates of UPM are associated with during their UPM days. In this dinner, a pledge was made by the founder President of PHUPM, Mr. S. Manokaram to form a society to serve as a platform for all UPM graduates to meet and pool their resources. Thus, the Indian Graduates Association was born and officially registered in 2 August 2000. Eversince, the society had been carrying various projects for the benefit of its members mainly and the public generally for the last decade.

Not forgetting, its core objective, IGAUPM organises its annual dinner yearly on various locations in the Klang Valley where it had tremendous support from its members. The dinner had always been a memorable one where it is the jewel in the crown of IGAUPM activities yearly.

In line with this, the 10th Annual Dinner is now being planned. It serves the aforementioned core objective besides cherishing our journey the last 10 years with the humble beginning of 18 founder members to the current membership of 10 folds.

So book **20 March 2010** in your diaries, phones or whatsoever means for the dinner and make sure you are there to join us for this event. It is an event you would not like to miss.



The
foundation
of every
state is the
education
of its youth

Diogenes Laertius

Coming
together is
the
beginning,

Keeping
together is
progress,

Working
together is
Success

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

- Kavitha a/p Manikam M0159
- Muthuckumar a/l Arumugam M0160
- Balamurugan Ratha Krishnan M0161

WEDDING BELLS



**Heartiest congratulation to
Miss Sushmeetha Morugan and
(currently IGAUPM Committee Member)
& Mr. S. Arun Kumar**

on the occasion of their wedding which was held on 15 February 2009 at the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, India. We wish you a blissful life together.

USEFUL INFO

The Khazanah Scholarship Programme:

Yayasan Khazanah is offering scholarships for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

- 1.Khazanah Global Scholarship
- 2.Khazanah Watan Scholarship
- 3.Khazanah Cambridge Scholarship

The scholarships are for any of the disciplines below:

- * Business – Economics, Finance, Investments, Law, Actuarial Science
- * Bio-Sciences – Bio-engineering, Bio-informatics, Molecular Biology, Food technology, Genomics, Bio-technology
- * Engineering- Electronics, Microelectronics, Materials Science, Nanotechnology.

For further information and to apply visit:

www.khazanah.com.my

Graduate Employability Management Scheme

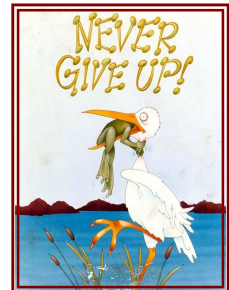
The Graduate Employability Management Scheme (GEMS) is the Government's capacity building initiative to equip graduates with commercially useful skills and experiences that will enhance their employment opportunities.

It is for graduates (Bachelor's degree) below 27 years old. Duration of the programme is 8 1/2 months (21/2 months of classroom training and 6 months of on-the-job training. Guess what? The trainees would be give an allowance of RM 1,000 through the training period. For further information and to apply visit:



***A good friend can
tell you what is
the matter with
you in a minute.
He may not seem
such a good friend
after telling.***

*Arthur Brisbane
"The Book of Today"*



***The editorial team and
the management committee
of IGAUPM
wishes all readers
a very Happy Deepavali.***



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<http://www.igaupm.org.my>