



Indian Graduates Association
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

Newsletter

(for Members only)

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IGAUPM Management Committee 2006-07

Advisors

Assoc Prof Dr A Rajan
Mr S Manokaram

President

Dr A Sivapragasam
(sivasam@mardi.my)

Vice President

Dr S Kulanthayan
(drkuluan@eng.upm.edu.my)

Secretary

Miss V Jeyanny
(jey_honey@hotmail.com)

Assistant Secretary

Dr Siva K Balasundram
(siva@agri.upm.edu.my)

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Dr S Uma Rani
(umarani@agri.upm.edu.my)

Assistant Treasurer

Mr Vijjandran Juva Rajah
(vijjandran@hotmail.com)

Members

Mr Thiya Devarajan
(thiyagu@mardi.my)

Mr Harris Raj Kumar
(h240976@hotmail.com)

Dr S Vikneswaran Nair
(vicky.n@taylor.edu.my)

Ms S Chubashini
(chubashini@yahoo.com)

Dr Sharmili Vidyadran
(sharmili@medic.upm.edu.my)

Co-opted Members

Mr R Dhatchynamoorthy
(dmoothy@petronas.com.my)

Ms Banumathy Devi
(banumathy.s@taylor.edu.my)

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Editorial – Face the sun, not the shadows

Greetings!

Helen Keller, the famed 19th century deaf-blind American writer, once wrote: “When you face the sun, the shadows always fall behind you.” The story of Helen Keller is the story of a normal child who, at the age of 18 months, was suddenly shut off from the world but, against overwhelming odds, waged a slow, hard but successful battle to re-enter that same world. The child grew into a highly intelligent and sensitive woman who wrote, spoke and labored relentlessly for the betterment of others.

In our day and age, we are quick to consider ourselves victims. We are all victims of some sort of emotional or social or gender or racial abuse. These problems often result from political and economic blunders we're all subjected to, be it at the national or the global scale.

Obviously, Helen Keller had challenges most of us can't even imagine. Instead of becoming pre-occupied by her physical disabilities, she faced the realities head on.

She turned her 'perceived' weakness into strength. That's probably why we didn't hear Helen Keller complain of being from a dysfunctional family, or of being a woman, or of not being given enough government aid to compensate her handicaps. She didn't focus on the 'shadows' when there was another choice.

What you face grows in your life, what you ignore falls behind you. But if you turn and look only at the shadows, they become your life. Such was Helen Keller's brand of optimistic thinking, which many of us could use. Indeed, the way we choose to see the world creates the world we see.

Best wishes for 2007!

Siva Balasundram
(siva@agri.upm.edu.my)



Editorial Committee:

Dr Siva K Balasundram
Ms Banumathy Devi

Appointment



Ms Banumathy Devi was recently co-opted into the Management Committee to undertake editorial work. Banu currently manages the Teaching and Learning Centre at the Taylor's College in Petaling Jaya. Being involved in education, training & career development for graduates over the past 10 years, Banu is currently involved in the training of students for programs like Effective Interview & Resume Writing Skills, Effective Presentation Skills, and Personal Development.

New Member

We welcome Mr Thinakaran Perumal to IGAUPM. Thinakaran obtained his BS (Engineering) and MS (Computer Engineering) from UPM. He is now pursuing his PhD at the Institute of Advanced Technology, Faculty of Engineering, UPM.

We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit -- Aristotle

Activity Report

• National Indian Entrepreneurship Conference (NIEC) 2006

IGAUPM, together with several other organizations, co-organized the NIEC 2006 with the Social Entrepreneurs Network (SeNet). This event was held on October 1, 2006 at Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The NIEC was aimed at motivating future and existing entrepreneurs toward success based on the formula of 'pooling resources and networking.' Well known Malaysian business leaders such as Datuk Tony Fernandez, Datuk P Kasi, Dato' AK Nathan, and several others, delivered talks and led discussions. The NIEC was attended by about 250 participants.



A satellite event held in conjunction with the NIEC was the Young Indian Entrepreneur Award (YIEA). The YIEA was aimed at recognizing the achievements of young Indian entrepreneurs aged between 25 and 40 who have developed successful businesses. Seven finalists were picked for the award based on financial performance and company growth, innovative business model, social responsibility by giving back to the community, and demonstration of strong leadership. Details on the NIEC and YIEA 2006 can be found in www.senet.com.my

Ms Chubashini Suntharalingam
IGAUPM-SeNet Liaison Officer

• Deepavali Gathering 2006

On November 18, 2006, IGAUPM hosted a Deepavali Gathering at Kampung Curry House, Serdang. The guests included Indian lecturers from UPM, Exco members of Persatuan Hindu Universiti Putra Malaysia (PHUPM) and IGAUPM members. This event was held to bridge the alumni community with the lecturers and students of UPM.



We hope that the informal setting provided an opportunity for us to meet and get to know each other socially and professionally in effort to strengthen fellowship and networking. We would like to thank the guests for taking time to attend this gathering. Indeed, it was a memorable occasion. We also received voluntary contributions from the guests, which is very much appreciated.

Dr Sharmili Vidyadaran
Organizing Chairperson

**A friendship
founded on
business is
better than a
business
founded on
friendship --
John
Rockefeller**

Congratulations to ...

Dr Vikneswaran Nair

(Head of R&D Center, Taylor's University College and a serving IGAUPM Committee Member)

on being awarded the Certificate of Merit under the category of Academic Leadership and Accomplishment in The Outstanding Young Malaysian (TOYM) Awards 2006, held recently.



The TOYM program serves to recognize up to ten individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 who exemplify the best attrib-

utes of the country's young people. This award, which has been around since 1985, is the Malaysian leg of The Outstanding Young Person's World Program.

Mr Vijandran Juva Rajah (a serving IGAUPM Asst Treasurer) & **Ms Christina Migeemanathan** (a former IGAUPM Treasurer)

on the occasion of their wedding which was held on November 25 2006 at the Sri Sakhti Eswari Temple Hall in Petaling Jaya.

We wish you both a blissful life together!



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Upcoming Activities

• Directory of UPM Indian Graduates

There are approximately 10,000 UPM Indian alumnus out there! Sadly, less than 1% of these alumni attend our Annual Reunion Dinners and AGMs, held since 2000.

In an effort to address this limitation, the IGAUPM plans to publish a Directory of UPM Indian Graduates, which is hoped to promote better alumni connectivity and networking.

• Annual Reunion Dinner & AGM

The Annual Reunion Dinner & AGM is scheduled for **March 24 2007** at Bukit Jalil Golf and Country Resort.

More information will follow via e-mail. In the meantime, kindly mark your calendar!



Improving Job Readiness

The issue of unemployment among Malaysian graduates, especially the fresh graduates, has attracted much attention and raised concern for many. The reality of life is that it is tough to get a job. The Malaysian job market is competitive and thousands of graduates are vying for the same job. One of the main contributors to this problem is poor command of the language, communication skills, analytical skills and critical-thinking skills. Graduates today tend to be quite choosy when applying for certain jobs and are often not keen to apply for jobs that are considered non-glamorous.

One of the most crucial things that graduates fail to understand is the importance of a well-written resume and cover letter in the job search process.



Today, it is an employer's market, and the employers will obviously favor those who possess competencies. Graduates need to analyze exactly what an employer wants and carefully match their experience and ability to that specification. One standard resume may not fit all job applications. Resumes need to be skewed towards what the potential employer is looking for. Graduates that can articulate what they have learnt and what they can offer will stand a greater chance of being recruited. It is very important to show the interviewer what you have accomplished and where your experience lies.

Ms Banumathy Devi
banumathy.s@taylors.edu.my

Random Information

• Employment opportunity in Bahrain

A leading automobile company in Bahrain is looking for candidates to fill technical, sales and IT (software & hardware) positions. Visa/work permit, accommodation and air travel will be arranged by the company. Should any one of you, your friends or relatives be willing to relocate and earn in Bahrain Dinar (1BD = RM9.73), send your CV to thiyagaraj1995@yahoo.com or grethinam@gmail.com.

• Tamil to English translation

A multilingual company based in Paris is looking for a professional translator to translate text documents (4134 words). This project will commence sometime in January 2007. If you're interested, kindly contact Ms Kamala at kamala_logi@yahoo.co.uk.

• Postgraduate opportunity in Denmark

Financial support for PhD programs in the field of biotechnology, chemistry and environmental engineering is available at Aalborg University. For details, look up <http://stillinger.aau.dk/vis.php?nr=3389>

*Never express
 yourself more
 clearly than you
 are able to think
 -- Niels Bohr*

International thinking at it's best

Q: What is the truest definition of Globalization?

A: Princess Diana's death.

Q: How come?

A: An English princess with an Egyptian boyfriend crashes in a French tunnel, driving a German car with a Dutch engine, driven by a Belgian who was drunk on Scottish whisky, followed closely by Italian paparazzi, on Japanese motorcycles; treated by an American doctor, using Brazilian medicines. This is sent to you by a Canadian, using Bill Gate's technology, and you're probably reading this on your computer, that uses Taiwanese chips, and a Korean monitor, assembled by Bangladeshi workers in a Singaporean plant, transported by Indian lorry-drivers, hijacked by Indonesians, unloaded by Sicilian longshoremen, and trucked to you by Mexican illegals.

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