

# PERSATUAN GRADUAN INDIA INDIAN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION



Reg. No. 998 (Est. August 2000) Email: [h240976@hotmail.com](mailto:h240976@hotmail.com) URL: <http://igaupm.ath.cx>  
Address: c/o Dr. Uma Rani, Jabatan Sains Tanaman, Fakulti Pertanian, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor

IGAUPM Council  
2004-05

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NEWSLETTER (for internal circulation only)

Issue 1: July 2004

## Editorial - Making ourselves relevant in a changing world

Greetings! Finally, we have brought this inaugural issue to your screen. For the record, the IGAUPM is approaching its fifth year since inception. This newsletter is aimed to serve members as an information and communication tool.

Many seem to think that the IGAUPM only exists when that time of the year comes – the Annual Reunion Dinner. Not quite true! A fair bit of effort has been put into making our IGAUPM “functional”. Notably, there has been the annual dinner (4 thus far) and a couple of other events such as financial planning seminar, career and business talks, and fellowship bowling. There has also been a subtle drive to increase membership. Granted, there is always room for improvement. Remember, we all live in an imperfect world. We are all constantly learning and trying to improve. The new management council is committed to address issues such as membership and financial standing, and importantly to enhance the functionality of the IGAUPM. It’s time to take the IGAUPM to the next level.

I suppose, it all boils down to making the IGAUPM relevant. Each of us will surely have our own quota of expectations, anxieties and dreams to walk this path. To make ourselves relevant within our environment, we need to embrace the concept of “change”. As we live each day, many things around us change. Some things change by the hour and some by the minute. Your mind changes its moods and decisions every millisecond or so. Change is inevitable; if it ought to happen, it will. Philosophical gurus claim that change is guided by an unknown force. They contend that nothing can remain unchanged! The loop of change encompasses the infinity. But still, we as human beings treat change as something we can do without. Why? It is probably due to the fear of losing our time-tested experience or memories or having not so good premonitions of the future. Reluctance to put our heads down to change will not take us anywhere. The waves of time will finally put us on the surfboard of change. So instead of being swept away by the ruthless time, why not welcome change? Why not welcome it with open minds and prepare ourselves for the inevitable?

Having said this, how about thinking retrospectively? Think about your first day in UPM – the strange (or familiar) environment, those mean (or friendly) facilitators, those tough seniors, the thought of being independent, etc, etc. Think about all the people you eventually got to know whom I’m sure many of us still keep in touch with. But how about those who sometimes appear in your memory just as vanishing faces, or names? Don’t you want to know what happened to them? Well, this is your chance for revival! The IGAUPM is an excellent platform to reconnect with your long-lost buddies. Along with this comes an opportunity to rebuild contacts and eventually network ourselves. Remember, we live and work in a competitive world – it doesn’t hurt to know the right person at the right position who can give us the right solution. Wouldn’t it be helpful if this person happened to be your senior (super senior, if you will) or your contemporary (batch mates, course mates) or perhaps your junior? Think about it folks!

In this edition, we begin with a few lines from the man who started it all: Our good advisor, Dr. A. Rajan. This follows with a few lines from our newly-elected president. Next, we present a quick roundup of our recent annual dinner and a brief description of the activities/events planned for the coming fiscal year. We have also included a section that provides information on employment and postgraduate opportunities, and select events that may be of interest to members. Since cleaning up our membership records is a priority issue, you will find a membership application at the end of this newsletter. Take some time to fill out this form and expedite it (with payment, please!) at the soonest. It would be very much appreciated if you could distribute this form to your buddies. Help us expand!

To facilitate subsequent issues, we need your comments (or criticisms) and contributions. Tell us something about your work, your institution or enterprise or your experience(s) over the years. Or shoot us a note on how to serve you better. We intend to have a freelance corner in the next edition (hopefully, 3 months down the road). Choose a theme, and hammer down a point or two! Share a poem, a quote or some jokes. If writing is not your cup of tea, send us pictures which you would like to share. It is important to realize that the IGAUPM can only be meaningful so long as members allow it to be. So, let’s try and make things work for us all.

Happy reading!

Siva Balasundram  
[siva@agri.upm.edu.my](mailto:siva@agri.upm.edu.my)

## Instructions for using this newsletter

This newsletter is best viewed on screen using the 'print layout' mode (on your MS Word menu, click on 'view' and select 'print layout'). It contains a substantial amount of hypertext information. Click on any of the hyperlinks ([underlined text in blue](#)) to access further information. Alternatively, you may highlight any of the hyperlinks, right click and select 'open hyperlink'.

### Message from the Advisor

Dear Members,

Good tidings and best wishes to all you dedicated members of IGAUPM. First of all I wish to express my sincere thanks to the editorial committee for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with all of you.

I am extremely pleased at the efforts of the IGAUPM Management Council and the Editorial Committee for this initiative to broaden the networking amongst members of our community. I believe it is our duty, as knowledgeable members of the community and as professionals, to continue to strengthen and support all efforts to encourage and develop friendship and fellowship.

My dear friends, as you are well aware, we have all faced many challenges and we will continue to face more and new challenges in the future. Strength in 'fellowship' will enhance personal development, and coupled with strength in 'numbers' will invariably provide the foundation needed for a concerted meaningful advancement of the community. A community with strong 'fellowship' is the key indicator of a strong, vibrant and successful community. Keeping in 'touch' and sharing experiences is the first step.

Hence, this newsletter is indeed a significant development which will serve to keep members informed as well as encourage greater interaction and meaningful participation by members. Above all the newsletter will provide the much needed link to promote membership development. However, many professional associations are faced with declining membership following an initial pompous launch. Therefore, it is very important to have a 'Membership Development Committee' to continuously review and focus on membership development, with particular attention to new graduates. It is the new generations who need to make new acquaintances with the more senior graduates, and seek the wisdom and guidance from a pool of experienced professionals.

We have embarked on a long and arduous journey, but I have full confidence in IGAUPM achieving the far-reaching goals that we have set out to achieve. With dedication and commitment, we will slowly but surely build these 'bridges of friendship', and all of you who had sacrificed time and effort to lay the foundation for this 'bridge' over these four years will go down in history as the pioneers who initiated, nurtured and gave life to IGAUPM. My best wishes.

Thank you.

**Dr. A. Rajan**  
*IGAUPM Advisor*  
[rajan@btu.upm.edu.my](mailto:rajan@btu.upm.edu.my)

Inspiring .....

[Positioning.doc](#)

### Message from the President

Dear Members,

I sincerely thank the Editorial Committee for giving me this opportunity to say a few words in this inaugural issue of the Association's newsletter. I should say that it is indeed a major milestone in our development to have our very own newsletter – simply put it is an achievement of sorts. Indeed, this newsletter could be the pulse of the Association to portray our activities, aspirations, and the significant happenings around us. Naturally, I consider it a major milestone for finally we have an official communication platform for members.

The Association as you all know is in its fourth year of existence. More than a few thousand Indian graduates, with varied academic qualifications, had passed through the august gates of Universiti Putra Malaysia. Despite this fact, we remain an insignificant group judging from the small number of current members in the Association. I truly hope this newsletter will play an effective role in expanding this membership by reaching beyond the current few – perhaps internationally too in the future. The challenges for us, to mention a few, include educational and job opportunities and socio-economic positioning within the national landscape. Obviously, working together as an Association has its inherent merits. And more pertinently, getting ourselves connected – the means of which is provided by our newsletter. Understandably, being connected is an essential ingredient for success especially in this fast moving globalized world. Just gauge the results of some of the well established 'old-boys network'.

I congratulate the Editorial Committee, headed by Dr. Siva Balasundram, for coming out with this inaugural issue. Dr. Siva comes with a vast experience in writing. We can therefore be rest assured that the newsletter is in competent hands. Nevertheless, to alleviate his tasks, it is my humble request that members contribute in one way or another towards providing inputs for the newsletter. In short, your inputs and contributions are imperative to the success of the newsletter. Imagine the synergistic role of an expanded membership against the many challenges that we have and will face in the future

Best wishes and greetings to all of you.

**Dr. A. Sivapragasam**  
*IGAUPM President*  
[sivasam@mardi.my](mailto:sivasam@mardi.my)

Something to ponder .....

[The Paradox of Our Time.doc](#)

The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life – Muhammad Ali, boxing champion

## 4<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner Report

IGAUPM had its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner on March 27, 2004 at the Shah's Village Hotel in Petaling Jaya. The dinner was attended by approximately 100 UPM graduates of batches ranging from 1974 to 2003. The dinner provided a good platform for fellowship and interaction. Interestingly, almost everyone went home with some form of lucky draw prizes, not to mention those door prizes. Thanks to all the generous donors for their contributions either in cash or kind. We had a free slot for free dancing with real hot music but unfortunately there were no takers. I suppose next time around we would surely remind you to bring along your dancing shoes! In short, we all had a good time and hope to see many more familiar and new faces in the coming years.

### Dr. S. Uma Rani

Organizing Chairperson

[umarani@agri.upm.edu.my](mailto:umarani@agri.upm.edu.my)

## Upcoming Activities

### ☞ Capacity Building Seminar

This seminar is scheduled for **sometime this month** and is aimed at helping new and existing students, who are associated with the Persatuan Hindu Universiti Putra Malaysia (PHUPM), adjust to campus environment. Issues that will be addressed include those pertaining to academic excellence, time management, social interaction, community service and specialized skills, which are all key elements for successful undergraduate education.

### ☞ Family Day

A 1-day 'edutainment' trip to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) is scheduled for **August 15, 2004**. As the theme suggests, this trip is all about fun and learning. It'll be a great opportunity for adults and kids to mingle around and explore nature.

### ☞ Image Enhancement Workshop

This workshop is scheduled for **October 10, 2004** and is aimed at giving participants that extra edge when it comes to dressing and carrying themselves during functions such as formal dinners, weddings, etc. Always wondered if your necktie is properly knotted, or if you're wearing the right color combination, or if that smile is charming enough? Here's an opportunity to give yourself a professional uplift.

### ☞ Career Talk

This talk is scheduled for **sometime in November, 2004** and is targeted at PHUPM undergraduates who are close to entering the job market. The motive for this talk is not only to prepare them for job interviews but also to provide valuable insights on what is expected in working life. Participants will be given vital tips on resume writing, dressing code, personal development and communication skills. At a previous career talk held on February 7, 2004, we were fortunate to have the services of Jobstreet.com, i.e. Mr. Suresh Thiru (Vice President of Operations) and Ms. Kavitha Eswari (Recruitment Consultant) who shared some finer points on job seeking. The both of them have expressed interest in lending their expertise once again.

### ☞ Financial Planning Talk

This talk is scheduled for **December 12, 2004** and is aimed at educating members and interested parties on the newer and better methods of handling their finances. Participants will also get a glimpse on what's in store as a result of AFTA, which goes into effect sometime in 2005.

This makes sense, what say you?

<http://www.robkraft.org/knowledge/saving.htm>

## Random Information

### ☞ Postgraduate and Distant Learning Opportunities at UPM

**Graduate School Office (GSO)** - Application forms for postgraduate studies (MS, PhD) are available online. For further information, visit <http://www.gso.upm.edu.my/> or contact +6 03 8946 4225 / 4217

**Graduate School of Management (GSM)** offers MBA, MM, MS and PhD programs. Information on application and study loans can be obtained from the following:

<http://gsm/application/application.htm>

[http://gsm/student\\_affairs/study\\_loan.htm](http://gsm/student_affairs/study_loan.htm)

**Distant Learning Center (IDEAL)** may be of interest to working-class people who wish to further their education. The online learning system provides flexible learning for working adults. Discussion sessions and tutorials are provided at learning centers throughout the country. For further information, e-mail to [intake@ideal.upm.edu.my](mailto:intake@ideal.upm.edu.my) or check out <http://www.ideal.upm.edu.my/>

### ☞ Conferences, Events and Miscellaneous

**Agriculture Congress 2004** kicks off for the first time in Kuala Lumpur on October 4-7, 2004. This inaugural bi-annual conference, which is organized by the [Faculty of Agriculture](#), UPM, is being held in conjunction with the Malaysian Agricultural, Horticultural and Agrotourism (MAHA) Exhibition. For further information, visit <http://www.agri.upm.edu.my/congress>

**15th National Biotechnology Seminar: Biotechnology for Sustainable Development** will be held at Rivera Bay Resort, Malacca on December 13-15, 2004. For further information, visit <http://www.sirim.my/nbs15/>

**Fabulous India Fair** is being held from June 18 to July 18, 2004 at City Square Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Indian traders (local & from India) are promoting products such as textiles, handicrafts, apparels, accessories, cuisines, etc. If you are looking for good bargains, check what's in store for you. For further information, contact 03-2162 1221

**ESPN STAR Sports United Charity Dinner and Auction** will be held on July 22, 2004 at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel, Seri Kembangan. This dinner will feature star guests from the English Premier League (EPL) football clubs and the Malaysian National Team. Not to be missed is the special auction, which will highlight autographed EPL memorabilia.....all up for grabs to the highest bidder! Tickets are available at RM200 each. For further details, contact +6 03 2282 5288 / 012 288 0179 / 016 6525 814 or e-mail [sportsunited@espnstar.com](mailto:sportsunited@espnstar.com) or visit <http://www.espnstar.com/fapl/charity.html>

**Yoga** - An age-old practice originating from India that is believed to have healing powers for the mind, body and soul. If you are looking for ways to reduce stress, improve your muscle tone and strength, take up yoga. Local centers which offer classes include:

SahajaYoga (web: <http://www.sahajmalaysia.org/>) and

Yogshakti (e-mail: [shilpa@yogshakti.com](mailto:shilpa@yogshakti.com))

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We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give

– Sir Winston Churchill

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark while professionals built the Titanic – Anon.

## Random Information, con't

### ✍ Jobs

Here are a few job openings:

Position: **Research Executive/Assistant**  
Qualification: MS, BS (Agriculture/Economics)  
Advertiser: Southeast Asian Council for Food Security and Trade (SEACON), Petaling Jaya  
Requirements: ?Excellent verbal/writing skills in English and Malay  
?Able to provide sound analysis on policy matters  
?Proficient in use of SPSS  
?Background in web designing is an added value  
?Self starter ?Willing to travel  
?Should (preference) possess own transport  
Contact email: [seacon@tm.net.my](mailto:seacon@tm.net.my)

Position: **Land Management Executive** (30 vacancies)  
Qualification: Bachelor and Diploma holders with relevant background and experience in sales, insurance, finance, real estate, investment, products  
\*Fluent in English and Malay or Mandarin (*as second language*)  
Advertiser: Walton International Property Group (M) Sdn Bhd, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wisma Genting, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur  
Send in your CV to: [recruitment@waltoninternational.com.my](mailto:recruitment@waltoninternational.com.my)

Position: **Civil Engineer, Architect, Senior Project Architect, Senior Project Engineer, Civil/Environmental Project Engineer**  
Advertiser: Corporate Headquarters, E A Consultants Inc, 485 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
For more information, e-mail [cambridge@seacon.com](mailto:cambridge@seacon.com) or visit <http://www.seacon.com/home.htm>

Position: **Horticulturist** (*female*)  
Qualification: BS (Agriculture/Horticulture/Bioindustry)  
Contact: Mr. Mohd.Nizam  
(tel: +6 03 5122 3700 ext 155; fax: +6 03 5122 5121)  
(e-mail: [normas@kotapermai.com.my](mailto:normas@kotapermai.com.my))  
Advertiser: Danau Permai Resort Bhd, Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam  
Website: [www.kotapermai.com.my](http://www.kotapermai.com.my)

Interested in part-time tutoring?

[The Faculty of Business and Management, Open University of Malaysia](#) (OUM) has openings for **Tutors** in various subjects. Salaries will commensurate academic qualifications. For further information, contact [Ms. Santhi Raghavan](#)

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Take it easy .....

[..\SalaryReview.pps](#)

## Random Information, con't

### ✍ International Organization: SEARCA

SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study & Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is a human resource development organization promoting high quality graduate education and training in agriculture and research programs. This organization offers scholarship and training for participating member countries of Southeast Asia, including Malaysia.

Scholarship: MS and PhD programs in agriculture, forestry and related fields. For further information, visit [http://web.searca.org/grad\\_scholarship.asp](http://web.searca.org/grad_scholarship.asp)

Training: Related fields such as Strategies for Rural Development (SRD), Sustainable Agriculture for the Upland (SAU), technical writing, etc. For further information, visit <http://web.searca.org/training.asp>

## Keeping in Touch

*Dr. K. Kuperan Viswanathan*

Remember Dr. Kuperan? Fondly known as 'Koops', Dr. Kuperan was PHUPM's 3<sup>rd</sup> President, taking over from [Dr. A. Sivapragasam](#), way back in the '70s. He went on to join the Faculty of Economics and Management, UPM as an academic staff. Not long after being promoted to Associate Professor, Dr. Kuperan left for greener pastures to join the [International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management](#), a research organization under the umbrella of the [Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research \(CGIAR\)](#).

A couple of us recently met up with him at Legends Curry House, Serdang for a cuppa. Dr. Kuperan is currently a Research Scientist with the [World Fish Center](#), which is also a member organization within the CGIAR, and is presently based in Bangladesh. If you would like to drop him a line, here is his contact e-mail: [k.viswanathan@cgiar.org](mailto:k.viswanathan@cgiar.org)

**Note: Calling on all past PHUPM Presidents to touch base with us. We'll be happy to run a brief account of your achievements.**



**"I forgot to make a back-up copy of my brain, so everything I learned last semester was lost."**

Source: [www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)

Did you know?

✍ The electric chair was invented by a dentist  
✍ Astronauts can't cry. In space, there's no gravity, so the tears can't flow

Scroll down to the next page and you will find a 2-page membership form. Kindly take some time to fill out this form. You may key in your data electronically or make a print and write down your particulars using ink. Your co-operation and support is very much appreciated.

**PERSATUAN GRADUAN INDIA**  
**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**  
**INDIAN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION**  
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Add: c/o Dr. Uma Rani, Jabatan Sains Tanaman, Fakulti Pertanian, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor.

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**Registration form for Ordinary Membership**

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**A. Personal Details**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ I.C. No. (new): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender : Male/Female Age : \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status : \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential address**

Street Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Town : \_\_\_\_\_ City : \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact address**

Street Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Town : \_\_\_\_\_ City : \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. No. : \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. : \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(es) : \_\_\_\_\_

Period of study in UPM : From 19\_\_ to 19\_\_

Qualification obtained : \_\_\_\_\_

Other qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Current Work Information**

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position : \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of business: \_\_\_\_\_

Company address

Street Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Town : \_\_\_\_\_ City : \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_

Office Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Office fax No. : \_\_\_\_\_

Office website: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Experiences: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. Application Details

wish to apply for membership/associate membership in the Indian Graduates Association of UPM.

hereby enclose \***RM50.00** being the registration and first year subscription fees.

Registration fee (for new members only) : RM 25.00 + Annual subscription : RM 25.00

Payment method:

Cash  Money/Bank Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_  Bank Deposit

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For the Bank Deposit payment method, please deposit into

Sumiputra Commerce Bank Account No 1215 - 0008803 - 05 - 0

The bank reply slip must then be faxed to:

Fax No.: 03-89435973

Attn. Dr. Uma Rani Sinniah

All cheques and money/bank order should be crossed and made out in favour of "Indian Graduates Association UPM" and addressed to

**PERSATUAN GRADUAN INDIA UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**  
**(Indian Graduates Association Universiti Putra Malaysia)**  
Jabatan Sains Tanaman, Fakulti Pertanian, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
43400 Serdang, Selangor D.E.  
(Attn: Dr. Uma Rani Sinniah)

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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For official use only:

Membership application is approved/not approved.

Approved membership No.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date: