

# PERSATUAN GRADUAN INDIA INDIAN GRADUATES ASSOCIATION



Reg. No. 998 (Est. August 2000)

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IGAUPM Council  
2005-06

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NEWSLETTER (for internal circulation only)

Issue 4: August, 2005

## Editorial – Drawing outside the lines

Greetings!

I have occasionally wondered why is *going against the grain* such a challenge for most Malaysians. It must be the education system. Remember those days in school, when they taught us to draw inside the lines? Nothing wrong with that, but if we let our imagination roam and drew outside the lines then we'd be corrected until we developed the habit of staying within the artificial boundaries given to us.

Because of this habituation, I suspect most Malaysians end up living their lives "inside the lines", typically known as our "comfort zone". Those who defy the norm often pay the price of contempt (if you've been reading the media lately, you'll know what I'm driving at). Because being accepted and liked is a primary source of security for the human ego, most people do their best to follow conventional wisdom and fit into the mold. This not only creates our limits but also crushes our spirits. Indeed, it takes guts to be different; to stand out from the crowd; to break free from the clone drone society and be a true individual.

In a sense, our society is to blame for creating a paradox; on the one hand it tells us not to be different, but on the other hand it pays us big money for doing so. Look at Walt Disney, Jane Stanford, Oprah, Elvis, The Beatles, etc. These personalities did not follow the crowd; they created their own style and stood up for what they believed. They drew outside the lines and won!

The real problem is that for most of us, our spirits were crushed early. Spirit does not understand "drawing inside the lines". Spirit has no lines. It is limitless and has no boundaries. Spirit is about growth and expansion. Folks, instead of squashing your individuality, celebrate your uniqueness. Instead of getting lost in the crowd, dare to stand out! Do something extraordinary. Buy when everyone else is selling and sell when everyone else is buying.

Sure, march to the beat of your own drum.

Cheers!

Siva Balasundram  
siva@agri.upm.edu.my

## Editorial Committee

**Dr. Siva K. Balasundram**  
**Dr. Shamala K.**  
**Subramaniam**

## AGM update

The IGAUPM had its 5<sup>th</sup> AGM cum Reunion Dinner on April 9, 2005. Despite an average turnout, as compared to the previous year, I believe most of us had a nice interactive evening. The newly elected council is pretty much a reflection of status quo with inclusion of two new faces (both ladies!) and hence a minor reshuffle of portfolios. (Mr Jude Gasper and Ms Santhi Raghavan did not seek re-election due to work commitments. We thank Jude and Santhi for their extraordinary services).

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. As Mark Twain said: "Explore, Dream and Discover"

## Membership update

We are growing! Welcome aboard to the following new members:

- ☞ Mr Ravindran Thiagarajah
- ☞ Mr Don Ranjith
- ☞ Ms Kavitha Ramalingam
- ☞ Mr Kalyanakumar Shanmugam
- ☞ Ms Kanmani Tangavello
- ☞ Mr Suresh Kumar Allan Raj

## Keeping in touch.....

*Mr Shreekanth Sibastin*

Shreekanth served as PHUPM President in 1992/93. Shree, as he is fondly known, graduated with a B. Agric. Sc in 1994. Upon graduation, he joined Zeullig Chemicals Sdn Bhd as a product development executive. In 1996, he left Zeullig to join Dupont (M) Sdn Bhd as a marketing executive. During this time, he pursued an MBA at Universiti Utara Malaysia, and graduated in 1999. After 8 years with Dupont, Shree set up his own business, SHR Resources (M) Sdn Bhd. He now supplies crop protection products and other agricultural inputs to key plantation companies in Malaysia.

Shree is happily married with two kids and is based in his hometown, Sungai Petani. He plays quite a bit of golf these days. In a recent email, Shree commended the Management Council for its good work. He hopes to see more activities that promote sharing of idea/experience among members.

Shree can be contacted at [shreeks@streamyx.com](mailto:shreeks@streamyx.com) or 012-5267077.

## Colloquium on ICT applications for agriculture

Today, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is increasingly seen as a powerful tool to facilitate and enable affordable solutions for agriculture in terms of productivity, product quality and safety, farm automation, and product packaging and marketing.

Realizing this, we are planning to bring together agricultural stakeholders and enthusiasts to i) evaluate existing ICT tools that are available for agriculture and ii) explore strategic linkages between various stakeholders/enthusiasts.

Tentative date: Sometime in October, 2005

Stay tuned for more info! If you have ideas to share on this proposed event, feel free to shoot us an email.

## Join us at Yahoo Groups!

To learn more about the IGAUPM\_05 group, please visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IGAUPM\\_05](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IGAUPM_05)

## Random information

### ☞ Scholarship

The Indian Trust Fund, administered by the High Commission of India, is giving out scholarships to Malaysian students of Indian origin studying at Malaysian universities, polytechnics and selected institutes.

The application form can be obtained from the High Commission of India (Education Section) at No. 2, Jalan Taman Duta, Off Jalan Duta, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

Alternatively, a scanned copy of the application form can be obtained from Mr Saravanan Kandasamy via [svanan77@gmail.com](mailto:svanan77@gmail.com)

Closing date: August 31, 2005.

### ☞ Management Talk

Listen to Professor Gary Hamel, a management guru from Harvard Business School. Prof Hamel will deliver a lecture entitled *Revolution, Renewal & Resilience: Building Organizations that Thrive in Turbulent Times* on November 21, 2005 at the Palace of the Golden Horses, Kuala Lumpur. This event is being organized by the Malaysian Institute of Management.

For details, go to <http://www.mim.edu/MA1202.htm>

### ☞ Conference

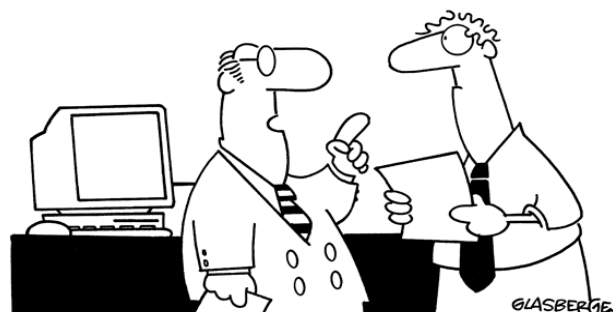
EU-Malaysia EcoTourism Conference 2005 will be held on Sept 26-28 in Ipoh. This event is being organized by EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry together with Perak State Development Corporation.

For details, contact [christine.cassagne@eumcci.com](mailto:christine.cassagne@eumcci.com) or [eumcci@eumcci.com](mailto:eumcci@eumcci.com)

### ☞ Trade Show

ASEAN Communications and Multimedia (ACM) Expo & Forum 2005 will be held on September 5-9 at Mines Resort City, Seri Kembangan. This premier ICT show is being organized by AMB Exhibitions Sdn Bhd.

For details, go to <http://www.acm-expo.com/>



**"Things always get better after they get worse.  
So it's good to make things worse as quickly as possible."**

Source: <http://www.glasbergen.com>