



*Malaysian Society of Animal Production
(Persatuan Produksi Haiwan Malaysia)*

Newsletter

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29th MSAP Annual Conference – Call for papers

The 29th MSAP Annual Conference will be held between the 25th and 27th of May 2008 at the Bayview Beach Resort, Penang. The conference theme chosen this year *Sustainable Livestock Production: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities*, aims to encourage discussions on achieving sustainable livestock production systems which can promote a balance between efficient production, global competitiveness, quality products, animal welfare, environment and consumer acceptance.

Papers and poster submissions are welcome on a wide range of topics, such as animal biotechnology, animal breeding and genetic, animal production and environment, aquaculture, feeds and feeding, food safety and products, halal food, and wildlife.

All submissions will be peer-reviewed and published in the conference proceedings. Kindly have your papers in before May 10th, 2008 (extended dateline) to ensure that your paper is included in the program. Please send your papers to Prof. Abd. Razak Alimon (ralimon@agri.upm.edu.my) or Assoc. Prof. Dr. Loh Teck Chwen (tcloh@agri.upm.edu.my).

For enquiries on conference registration, please contact Dr. Johari Jiken (nekij@mardi.gov.my) or Dr. Ramli Mohd Noor (ramono@nardi.gov.my).

Looking forward to seeing you in Penang.

The Swamp Buffalo: A Forgotten Farm Animal in Malaysia?

Swamp buffaloes have played an important role in providing draught power and beef for people in many Asian countries including Malaysia. For generations, farmers have benefited from rearing swamp buffaloes under the smallholder or free ranging system. Even though the buffaloes still have important economic roles in many countries in the humid tropics, the animals appear neglected and its potential to produce meat has been overlooked. In addition, as the slaughter and calf mortality rates exceed birth rate, the swamp buffalo population has steadily decreased over the years. As Malaysia desires to increase its red meat production, we have rightly emphasized and intensify the production of goat and cattle. However, we are still working to build a stock population to meet the targeted self-sufficiency levels of red meat production.

Based on published reports, there appear only few research undertakings on the productivity and development of farm of buffaloes due to the lack of specific research fund and priority and government support, respectively. In the 70s through to the 80s, three international agencies (IAEA, IDRC and ACIAR) funded several researches (mainly in UPM) in the fields of nutrition, breeding, health and reproduction of swamp buffaloes. During these years, UPM Serdang was recognized worldwide for research in swamp buffaloes, but since then, it became history when industrialization processes shifted our priority. Whatever has been said and concluded, the swamp buffalo remains as the most well adapted animal to the humid tropics even though it has reproductive inefficiencies when compared to the imported cattle. The beast is well-known to efficiently utilize low quality and fibrous agricultural by-products such as the rice and corn straws as the basal feed. For these reasons, buffaloes could be seen grazing all day in natural grasslands and post-harvested rice fields. The traditional rearing system based on extensive grazing on native forages and fibrous crop residues without feed supplementation have dominated management systems and also been the cause of low productivity. However, many studies that have shown that swamp buffaloes have excellent productivity (growth and meat yield) with good nutrition.

With priority of land for rapid urbanization, industrial development and industrial crop production, the swamp buffaloes have to strongly compete for space and feed resources. This beast has economic value and importance as a source of red meat. The authorities and researchers need to review the research and development policies giving due importance to the farming of swamp buffaloes. Otherwise, the swamp buffalo would become irrelevant in our agricultural system with its potential as meat producer remains unexploited.



A prized bull for sale on a farm in Indonesia



Buffalo breeding centre in Surin, Thailand



Communal swamp buffalo grazing ground in China

Prof. Dr. Zainal Aznam Mohd Jelani
DVM, MSc., Ph.D

Malaysian Journal of Animal Science (MJAS)

We need full continuous support from MSAP members and non-members, especially through contribution of articles to ensure the survival of the Malaysian Journal of Animal science (MJAS). Contribution of scientific papers can be in the form of current issues, research reports or review papers in animal science and livestock production.

For those of you who would like to contribute, kindly send your articles or contact the acting Editor-in-Chief, Prof Dr. Abdul Razak Alimon (ralimon@agri.upm.edu.my) at the Dept. of Animal Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Completed paper can also be emailed or forwarded to these email addresses hali@agri.upm.edu.my (Dr. Halimatun Yaakub) or jothi@agri.upm.edu.my (Dr. Jothi Panandam).

Upcoming Events

Australasian Aquaculture 2008

Aug 03 - 06, 2008

Brisbane, AUSTRALIA

www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/

9th International Conference on Goats

Aug 31 - Sept 05, 2008

Santiago de Querétaro, MEXICO

cabras.intellia.com.mx/

13th Animal Science Congress of the Asian-Australasia Association of Animal Production Societies

Sept 22 – 26, 2008

Hanoi, VIETNAM

www.aaap2008.org.vn

5th 'Horizons in Livestock Sciences' Conference

Oct 28 - 30, 2008

Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.livestockhorizons.com/>

10th World Conference on Animal Production

Nov 23 – 28, 2008

Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

<http://www.wcap2008.co.za/index.php>

REMINDER

Have you paid your annual membership fee for 2006 and 2007? Please do so to help YOUR SOCIETY to move forward. Why not upgrade your status to LIFE MEMBERSHIP for only RM500.00 and not to worry about future payments.

For those who are interested to become a new member, please feel free to enquire any information from any executive committee or contact tcloh@mardi.my or hali@agri.upm.edu.my.

If you don't receive this Newsletter, may be your mailing address is not updated in our mailing list. Please contact sumi@agri.upm.edu.my.

ANY COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any information to share with our members, please contact sumi@agri.upm.edu.my.