

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK

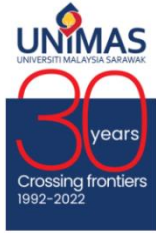
Kenyataan Akhbar
Press Release

MoA Signing Ceremony between UNIMAS and GP Agriculture Sdn. Bhd.

14th October 2022, KOTA SAMARAHAN – Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) has remarkably signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Sarawak’s industrial partner, GP Agriculture Sdn. Bhd. (GPAR), to signify the collaboration of research on cultivation of *Vanilla* spp. *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The MoA was signed by the Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS, Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi and the Managing Director, Mr Alec Lim Swee Fung representing GPAR Sdn. Bhd. witnessed by the industry members and UNIMAS teams at the Staff Lounge, Chancellery building, UNIMAS

In his speech, Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi has expressed his appreciation to GPAR Sdn Bhd for enthusiasm collaborations with UNIMAS expert team. “We believe this mutual partnership would initiate significant steps toward building a strategic engagement with the industry” he says. He also highlighted that UNIMAS as a community-driven university has responsibility to lead the industries and communities in related R&D project and activities. UNIMAS would offer their expertise, innovative products and technical services to address the issues faced by industry and community. He also added that the inclusive partnership between the university, industry and community are vital for a successful sustainable development both at national and global levels. Furthermore, the university-industry-community axis could enhance the capacity and quality of the agricultural products through advanced commercial farming model as inspired by the Sarawak’s Premier.

Managing director of GPAR Sdn. Bhd., Mr Alec Lim Swee Fung explained the MoA requires both parties to work collectively in achieving the collaboration goals in supporting the research project on propagation of *Vanilla* spp. And as industrial community, this collaboration may also pursuit of the internship leading to job and knowledge for graduates and local communities. Mr Alec said, “Each party will pursue numerous significant activities, includes the promotion of industrial and academic exchange between



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organizations and individuals, job opportunities and development in agriculture field”.

The MoA has strengthened the research collaboration and formalized the execution of the research project that will be executed by the ‘Plant Science Research’ team lead by Dr Hashimah Binti Elias from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST), UNIMAS. According to Dr Hashimah Elias, the study aims to be completed within 5 years by implementing several propagation techniques applied in the lab and natural habitat. The ultimate goal of the project is to propagate *Vanilla* species commercially in industrial scale.

U N I M A S