

## UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK

Press Release

### **Malaysia hosts the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference for Lactic Acid Bacteria (ACLAB12) in Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, Sarawak**

**KUCHING, 11 October, 2022** – With the announcement of the opening of the Malaysian borders on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the Malaysian Society for Lactic Acid Bacteria (MSLAB) hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference for Lactic Acid Bacteria (ACLAB12), an annual international scientific conference fully in physical mode since the ACLAB10 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2019. The MSLAB is a society under the auspices of the Asian Federation for Lactic Acid Bacteria (AFSLAB) which has members from all over Asia, such as China, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. AFSLAB members take turns hosting the annual conference in their home country, where the conference acts as a primary platform to showcase the fast development of Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB)-based research, technology, network and collaboration with various stakeholders.

*“I believe that people are excited to finally be able to travel and participate in a face-to-face conference after attending virtual conferences for the last two years. While virtual conferences have been great in connecting people from all over the world, I think that physical conferences are greatly missed and there are certain elements such as networking which are just more conducive in a physical setting”* says Prof. Dr. Foo Hooi Ling who is the chairperson of the ACLAB12, the Vice President of AFSLAB and also the President of the MSLAB.

This year, the conference theme of ACLAB12, "Evidence-based LAB: advances, opportunities & challenges", encompassed 7 themes of scientific sessions featuring prominent keynote and plenary speakers from all over the world. Customarily, the conference also features two technical visits thus playing a role in promoting local edutourism as well. The ACLAB12 delegates will be brought to visit the Borneo's endangered species – Orangutans at the Semenggoh Nature Reserve and the Sarawak Biodiversity Center which conserve, utilise, protect and sustainably develop the biodiversity of the Sarawak state.

*“The LAB are most commonly associated with probiotics which industry has been booming in recent years. However, there are many studies and requirements which has to be met before a product is considered a probiotic with specific claimed benefits. Hence the theme of the conference is to advocate for evidence-based LAB”*, explains Prof. Dr. Foo Hooi Ling.

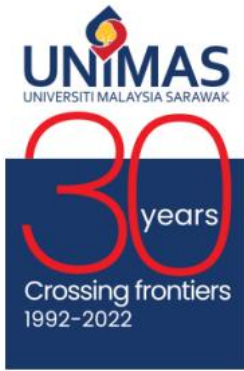
The conference was held on the 10-13 October 2022 in Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, Sarawak. This city which is located on the exotic islands of Borneo takes pride in its diverse cultures and foods, national parks, rainforests, and colonial history. The conference was officiated by the honourable Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak, YB Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn and attended by more than 150 researchers, academicians, students, product legislation authorities and industry representatives from all over the world, and especially from the Asian region.

In his speech, the minister said that the ACLAB12 theme is very much aligned with the recently launched National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 (NBP 2.0) to ensure that the biotechnology field will develop rapidly and advance in line with the aspiration of making Malaysia a high-tech or k-economy country by the year 2030. Furthermore, this policy will strengthen the existing biotechnology ecosystem to be a catalyst in solving national challenges related to food security, pandemic management, and climate change crisis through locally developed biotechnological solutions.

*“I am very much encouraged that the industry players have come together to jointly develop high-impact initiatives to produce new food products and the processed supplement food industry. These are high-yield food manufacturing sectors, and we need the collaboration and support of the private sector to maximise the potential of these niches probiotic and superfood products developed from lactic acid bacteria (LAB)-based research and technologies”, he says.*

The Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia YH Dato’ Prof. Dr. Roslan Sulaiman and the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, YB Prof. Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi were also present as the patrons of ACLAB12. Both Vice Chancellors reiterated that the efforts of ACLAB12 is also in line with the vision and mission of the respective universities to be recognized globally and to contribute to the nation’s development and well-being, both socially and economically.

The ACLAB12 was organised by MSLAB and co-organisers which includes Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, University of Nottingham Malaysia, UCSI University, MAHSA University and Dong Foong Manufacturing Sdn. Bhd. The conference was supported by the Sarawak State Government, represented by the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak, and the Sarawak Research and Development Council



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as well as the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau and Business Events Sarawak. ACLAB12 was also sponsored by Platinum sponsors: Morinaga Nutritional Foods (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd. and Bened Biomedical Co., Gold Sponsors: Angel Yeast Singapore Pte Ltd. and Arif Efektif Sdn Bhd., Bronze sponsor: Yakult Malaysia Sdn Bhd. and other sponsors such as My Miracle Sdn. Bhd., Research Instruments Sdn Bhd. and Chong Kun Dang Healthcare.

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