

Foreword

Welcome to the First Issue of 2019 for the Journal of Science and Technology (JST)!

JST is an open-access journal for studies in Science and Technology published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 30 articles; 5 are review articles and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. Malaysia alone contributed 14 articles.

Articles submitted in this issue cover various scopes of Science and Technology including applied sciences and technologies, chemical sciences, earth sciences, engineering sciences, environmental sciences, information, computer and communication technologies, material sciences, mathematical sciences, and medical and health sciences.

Selected from the scope of information, computer and communication technologies is an article entitled “Ma-Ease: An Android-based Technology for Corn Production and Management” by fellow researches from Philippines (*Sales Gamponia Aribé Jr., Jhon Michael H. Turtosa, Jul Maico B. Yamba and Alvin B. Jamisola*). The study focused on development of a mobile application for corn farmers needs through the cooperation of the City Agriculture Office (CAO) of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Philippines. The researchers emphasized on dissemination of proper information, management and techniques for a good harvest of corns through this mobile application namely Ma-Ease Application. The results showed that farmers were satisfied with the mobile application and thus the software product was formally accepted and recommended for use and deployment by the Department of Agriculture. Details of the article are available on page 49.

Selected from the scope of engineering science is an article entitled “Utilization of Normal and Treated Cement Kiln Dust as Cement Replacement Materials in Concrete” by *Yaser Gamil, Ismail Bakar and Lee Yee Loon*, fellow researchers from Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia. The study aimed to modify Cement Kiln Dust (CKD), a by-product generated throughout the production of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), and investigate the difference

between the normal CKD and modified CKD. The study also emphasized that treating CKD by removing excessive and unwanted materials can improve its chemical and physical properties and the results showed that that modified CKD had better properties compared to normal CKD. Details of the article is available on page 247.

Selected from the scope of medical and health sciences is an article entitled “Effects of Various Drying Methods on the Vitamin C Level of Papaya Locally Grown in Brunei Darussalam” by *Nur Amirah Hair Mustapa* and *Siti Rohaiza Ahmad*, fellow researchers from PAPRSB Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam. The study investigated the level of vitamin C in dried papaya subjected to four different drying methods including sun drying (SD), oven drying (OD), freeze-drying (FD) and deep freezing (DF). The researchers found out that the FD method resulted in the highest vitamin C levels compared to other three drying methods, hence serving as the best industrial application with good vitamin C retention in papaya. Details of the article is available on page 387.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika’s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers and editors, who have made this issue possible.

JST is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Chief Executive Editor

Prof. Dato’ Dr. Abu Bakar Salleh

executive_editor.pertanika@upm.my