

## **Report on IUPAP visit to Brunei 28 and 29 October 2015**

The IUPAP President met with representatives of the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD):

- Dr Joyce Teo Siew Yean - Assistant Vice Chancellor (Global Affairs)
  - Dr Sabrina Dato Daud - Deputy Director Global Relations
  - Dr Jimmy Lim, . Director, Centre For Advanced Material And Energy Science
  - Professor Liyanage - Deputy Director (Faculty Integrated Technology)
- at 0930 on Thursday 29th October 2015 for approximately 2 hours. Flight timetables necessitated my leaving Singapore on 28th to be able to get to the meeting.

Joyce explained that the UBD had restructured to facilitate attacking interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary problems of importance to transforming the economic position of Brunei to be less dependent on oil and gas reserves. Hence the structures like the Faculty of Integrated Technology and the Centre for Advanced Material and Energy Science. I was told that 70% of students doing physics at UBD, and 90% of the engineers were women.

I presented a summary of IUPAP, both its history and its present situation. I emphasised that

- With the move of our office to Singapore it is time to also focus on developing physics in Asia
- We have a Commission on Physics Education who can help with physics in High Schools
- We have a Commission on Physics for Development who can assist with focussed workshops in the region
- UBD has interests in Computational Physics (covered by our Commission 20) and Energy Research (Covered by our Working Group 12)

Particular interest was expressed in the possibility of UBD hosting a regional workshop for materials science with the assistance of Singapore and other ASEAN countries.

I was advised that Joyce and Jimmy were working on a proposal for membership of IUPAP which he will need to present it to the Senior Management of UBD as well as to seek the Senate Meeting's approval.

After the meeting Jimmy took me on a tour of his laboratories for production of detectors and solar cells. An interesting approach was the use of dyes sourced from forest plants in the construction of solar cells, to obtain the desired spectral sensitivity.

Jimmy has had close interactions with Kwek, and their interaction was the catalyst for this meeting, and for the UBD decision to make an approach for University level support for IUPAP membership/

I look forward to further interactions with the UBD and to welcoming Brunei as a member of IUPAP.

Bruce McKellar  
President, IUPAP