

# Bioplastics can make a difference, says Japanese Professor

Lyna Mohamad

Using biomass as starting materials for chemicals and plastics can contribute to global sustainability without depletion of scarce resources.

This was said by Professor Uyama Hiroshi from the Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Japan during a talk hosted by the Centre for Research on Agri-Food Science and Technology (CrAFT), Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) yesterday.

The talk on 'Plant-based Bioplastics for Sustainable Development: Recent Progress and Advancement from Osaka University' was held at the Lecture Theatre 1 of the university's Library Complex.

The professor touched on recent progress and advancement of biomass plastics applications in food industry.

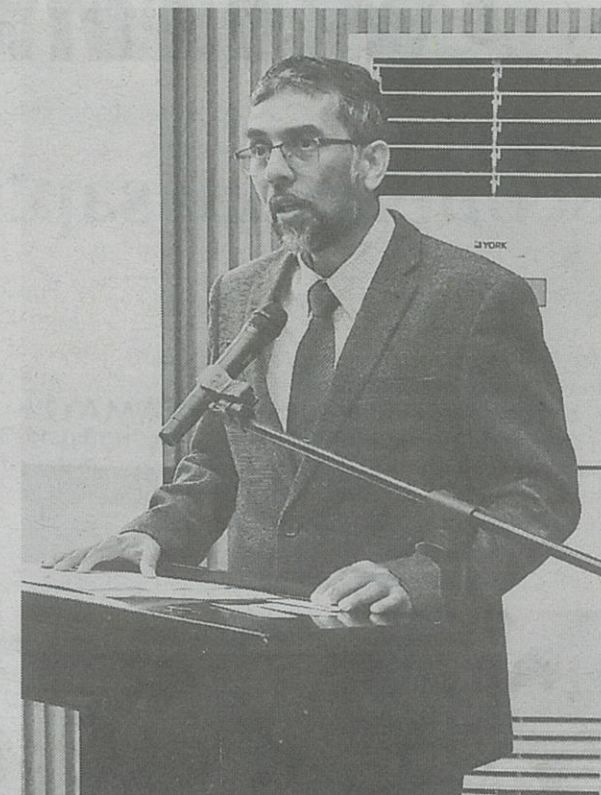
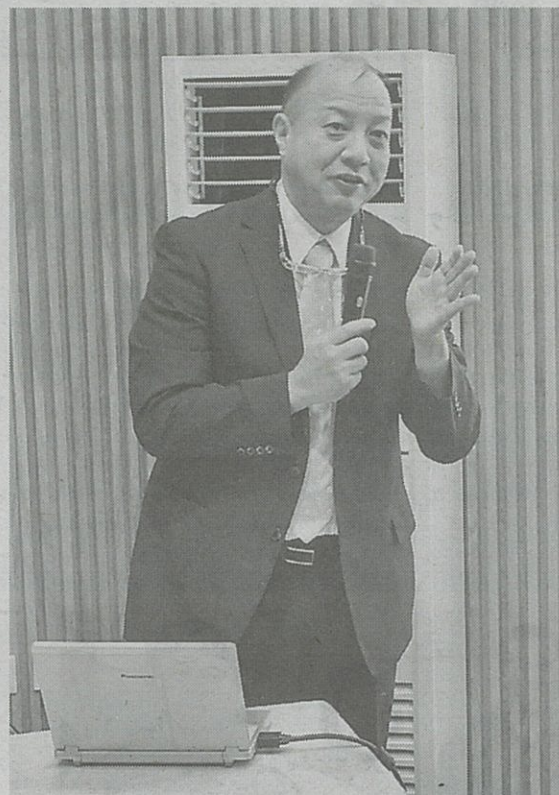
He explained that natural plant oil sources are found in abundance worldwide and can be utilised as an ideal alternative chemical feedstock and noted that inexpensive triglyceride natural oils have been extensively used in coatings, inks, plasticisers, lubricants, resins and agrochemicals in addition to their applications in the food industry.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) of UTB Professor Dr Mohammed Hasnain Isa was the guest of honour while others present were officers, staff and students of UTB as well as from other higher learning institutions.

The assistant vice-chancellor said that UTB, despite being a young university, has quickly established its undergraduate programmes and is currently moving rapidly towards research.

Research at UTB is clustered into six thrusts based on a multidisciplinary philosophy, which is in line with Brunei Vision 2035. CrAFT is one of the three research centres at the university, having established important research collaborations locally and abroad with academic institutions and industries.

"At the heart of our research is UTB's vision to be 'A Global University Impacting Society'. Our researchers work to enhance sustainability in society, economy and environment," added the assistant vice-chancellor.



FROM LEFT: Professor Uyama Hiroshi from the Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Japan; and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) of Universiti Teknologi Brunei Professor Dr Mohammed Hasnain Isa. PHOTOS: LYNA MOHAMAD



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