

Team from Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering won Excellent Paper Award at iCAAA 2014, Krabi, Thailand



Dr Danial received the award at iCAAA 2014 banquet, held at Mercure Krabi Deevana Hotel on 27th Sep 2014

Inset left: The Excellent Paper Award Certificate



Dr Danial and his postgrad student, Asliana Asmara posing before the conference started

Dr Danial Ibrahim from Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and team has won the Excellent Paper Award at the iCAAA 2014 (International Conference on Aquaculture, Agro Business Industry and Agritourism) held in Krabi, Thailand from Sept 26-27, 2014.

iCAAA is an international conference jointly organized by American-Eurasian Network for Scientific Information and International Postgraduate Network that covers a wide range of research from science and engineering, applied sciences and agricultural businesses. The paper presented by Dr Mohd Danial and team, "Durable Hybrid-Powered White Pepper Retting Machine Integrated with Crude Enzymatic Solution, by Ibrahim, M.D., R.Iskandar, N.A.N., Ibrahim, M.D., Ashaari, M.F., Zulkharnain, A. and A.Hussaini, A.A.S." was one of the two excellent papers selected in this conference. This work is a collaborating research activity of Mechanical Engineering Department with Department of Molecular Biology lead by Dr Azham Zulkharnain.

The content of the paper is related to an innovated way of retting the white pepper utilizing a new integrated mechanical and chemical way to produce white pepper using enzymes. Apart from application of friction forces generated between the blade and inner wall of the skin of the berries, the enzymatic solution will help accelerating the retting process, suitable for efficient mass production of high quality cottage industries of white pepper. The integration improved the production time as much as three times at current un-optimized ratio of enzymes used in the solutions. The same project once won an Honor of Invention Award from World Invention Intellectual Property Association in 2013. The project is funded by Ministry of Education Malaysia under the Prototype Research Grant Scheme, Grant No: PRGS/1/2013/SG06/UNIMAS/02/1 and Research Acculturation Grant Scheme, Grant No: RAGS/c(4)935/2012(36).

Upon receiving the award, Dr Danial stated "It is an honor to have our research recognized internationally. With this encouragement, we hope to be able to connect it to commercialize-able product in the near future."

By

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