

BIM Events

BIM Online Talk: THE ROLE OF MALAYSIA BIOECONOMY CORP IN SUPPORTING THE SMEs IN CURRENT ECONOMIC SCENARIO
13th January 2021 @ 9.30 am




BALAI IKHTISAS MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN
PROFESSIONAL CENTRE

ONLINE TALK

**THE ROLE OF MALAYSIA BIOECONOMY CORP
IN SUPPORTING THE SMEs IN CURRENT
ECONOMIC SCENARIO**

SPEAKER



DR HARCHARAN SINGH
Senior Vice President, Industry Development Division
Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation

 13th January 2021 (Wednesday)

 9.30 am to 11.00 am @ ZOOM meeting

BIM Events

BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar

3rd March 2021

Platform: Zoom Online

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR



BALAI IKHTISAS MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN
PROFESSIONAL CENTRE

BIM Youth
Webinar
Registration



3rd MARCH 2021 WEDNESDAY | 09:00 AM
ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM



OPENING REMARKS

AR. ABU ZARIM ABU BAKAR
President
Balai Iktisas Malaysia (BIM)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MDM. ELINA JANI
Director
Business Development
Malaysian Green Technology &
Climate Change Centre



MODERATOR

DR. ROSAZLIN ABDULLAH
Youth Exco Committee
Balai Iktisas Malaysia (BIM)

BIM Youth Webinar gathers young people from different universities and professional sectors to discuss the role of the youth and attracts the active involvement in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia.

PANELIST



NG JIA SHIN
President
Science in Environmental
Management Club
(SPAS) UM



TAN CHEE YANG
Former President
UM Medical Society



MUHAMMAD HAFIZ
AIMAN BIN MOHD
KHAIRUDDIN
Vice President
Student Association
Faculty of Agriculture
(PERMATANI) UPM



EIEZAZ WILFRED
President
Civil Engineering Society
(PEKA) UTM



HARIVALAGAN SIVA
KUMAR
President
Student Association
Society of Faculty
Science and Technology
(PMFST) UKM



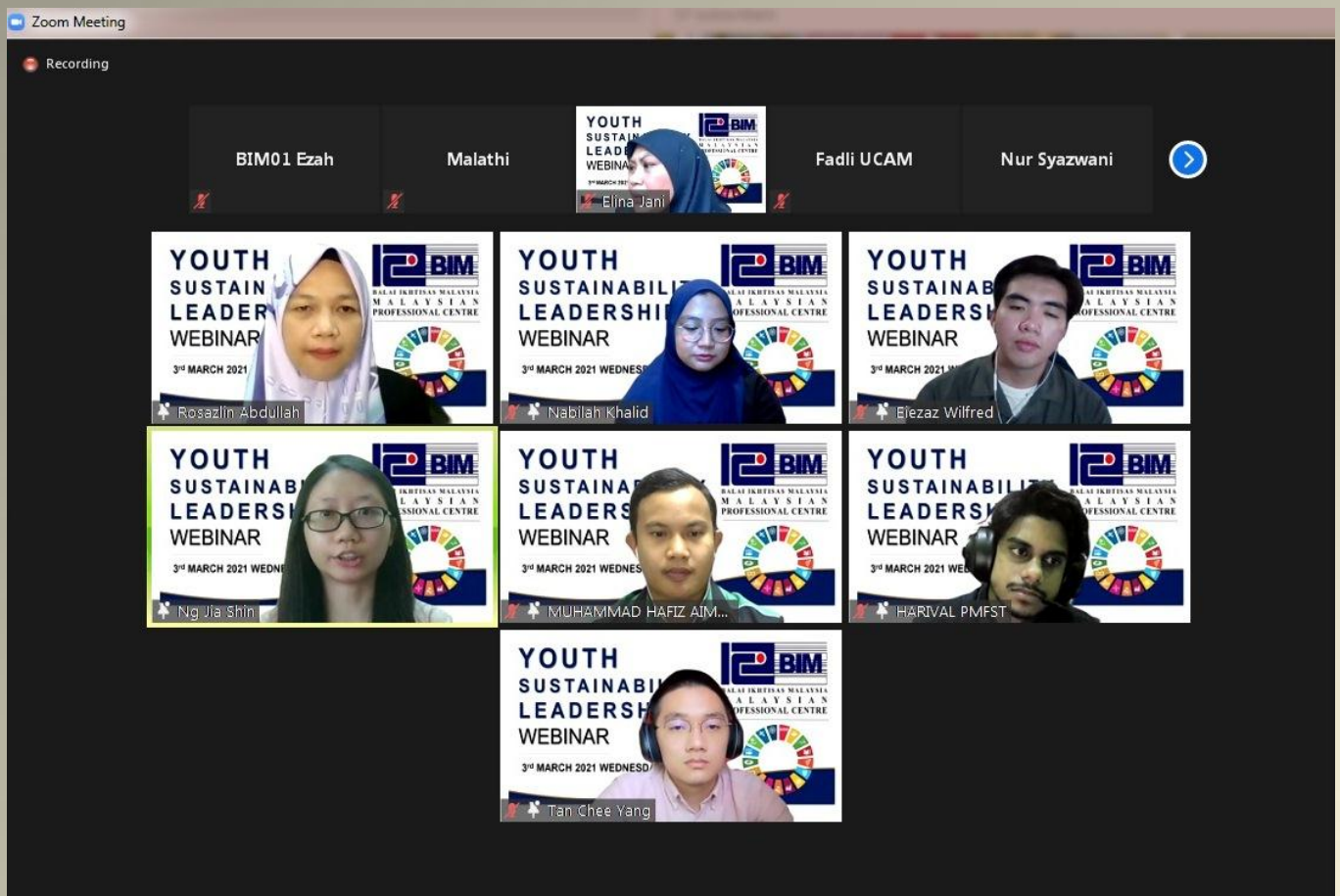
NABILAH MD. KHALID
Final Year Student
Bachelor of Economics
School of Social Science
USM

Open for Public • No Registration Fee • E- certificate provided | For Enquiries - mybim2020@gmail.com



BIM Events

BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar 3rd March 2021 Platform: Zoom Online



The BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar was successfully convened on 3rd March 2021, 10.00 am via online Zoom platform.

BIM Youth Webinars gathers young people from different universities and professional sectors to discuss the role of the Youth and attracts active involvements in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Malaysia.

BIM Events

BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar
3rd March 2021
Platform: Zoom Online



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (AGRICULTURE FIELD)

Strong relationship

Sustainable farming

What they know?

Responsible ?

Contribution ?

AGRICULTURE

UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
BERSEKUTU BERSAMA SAMA
PERMATANG

LoungeV.com

Audio Start Video

Leave

View

Participants: Rosazlin A..., MUHAMMA..., Eiezaz Wilfred, Ng Ja Shin

Webinar Title: YOUTH SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP WEBINAR

BIM Events

**BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar
3rd March 2021
Platform: Zoom Online**

Recording

Science and Technology

Contribution to Sustainability Development Goals (SDG)

IDEAS

BIM01 Ezah


CHALLENGES

COST	RESOURCES LOCATION
AVAILABILITY	POWER QUALITY

IDEAS

Synthetic and Biodegradable Polymer Matrix

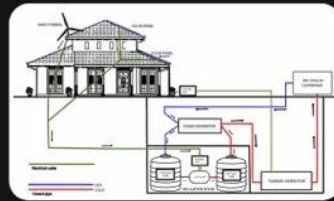
"usage of kenaf fibre in biocomposite polymer reduces further the environmental impact"



Thermal Grid Storage of Molten Salt

"Heat storage will play a central role in the sustainable energy system of the future."

by Robert B. Laughlin




YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

PROJECT BEACON

producing energy just merely from waves of the ocean to help a cleaner energy for the mas


Hannah Herbst



PROJECT HARVEST

A simple but brilliant idea of harvesting energy from wind, sun and water via help of piezoelectric.




Maanasa Mendu



side positive note:

- renewable energy is ever been slightly increasing in term of usage

SDG FOCUS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BIM Events

BIM Youth Sustainability Leadership Webinar
3rd March 2021
Platform: Zoom Online

Zoom Meeting

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR
Rosazlin A...

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR
Eiezaz Wilfred

BIM01 Ezah

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR
Elina Jani

YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR
Tan Chee Yang

The infographic features a central thought bubble containing the word "ENGINEERING". Four arrows radiate from this central bubble to four distinct icons: 1) "FLOOD" with a house in water, 2) "GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION" with a globe and heat waves, 3) "RISE IN TEMPERATURE" with a globe on fire, and 4) "RISE IN SEA LEVEL" with a globe and a rising water level. In the bottom left, an illustration of a female engineer in a hard hat and safety vest is shown with a lightbulb and a green leaf above her head. Below the central bubble, the text "SOCIAL EFFECTS" is accompanied by icons of people and communication bubbles. The background includes faint architectural drawings and a large gear with the number "5m".

FLOOD

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION

RISE IN TEMPERATURE

RISE IN SEA LEVEL


ENGINEERING


SOCIAL EFFECTS

ENGINEERING

BIM Events

DIGITAL TRAINING & DIGITAL MARKETING (DRDM) TRAINING SERIES PART 1 (6th & 7th March 2021) PART 2 (20th & 21st March 2021)



 AN INITIATIVE BY
BALAI IKHTISAS MALAYSIA (BIM)

IF YOUR BUSINESS IS PANDEMIC PROOF, THIS TRAINING PROGRAMME IS NOT FOR YOU


Digital Retailing & Digital Marketing (DRDM) is a **2-Part** training series exclusively designed to foster business competitive edge and sustainability through eCommerce and Social Media

ELEMENTS COVERED

PART I	PART II
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING• FB ADS & COPYWRITING• PRODUCT SOURCING• E-COMMERCE MARKETPLACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CONTENT CREATION: VIDEO• CONTENT CREATION: PHOTO• BRANDING: LOGO• DIGITAL PRESENCE

DRDM
TRAINING SERIES

Part I - 6th & 7th March 2021
Part II - 20th & 21st March 2021
Time: 10.00am - 2.00pm
LIVE ON ZOOM



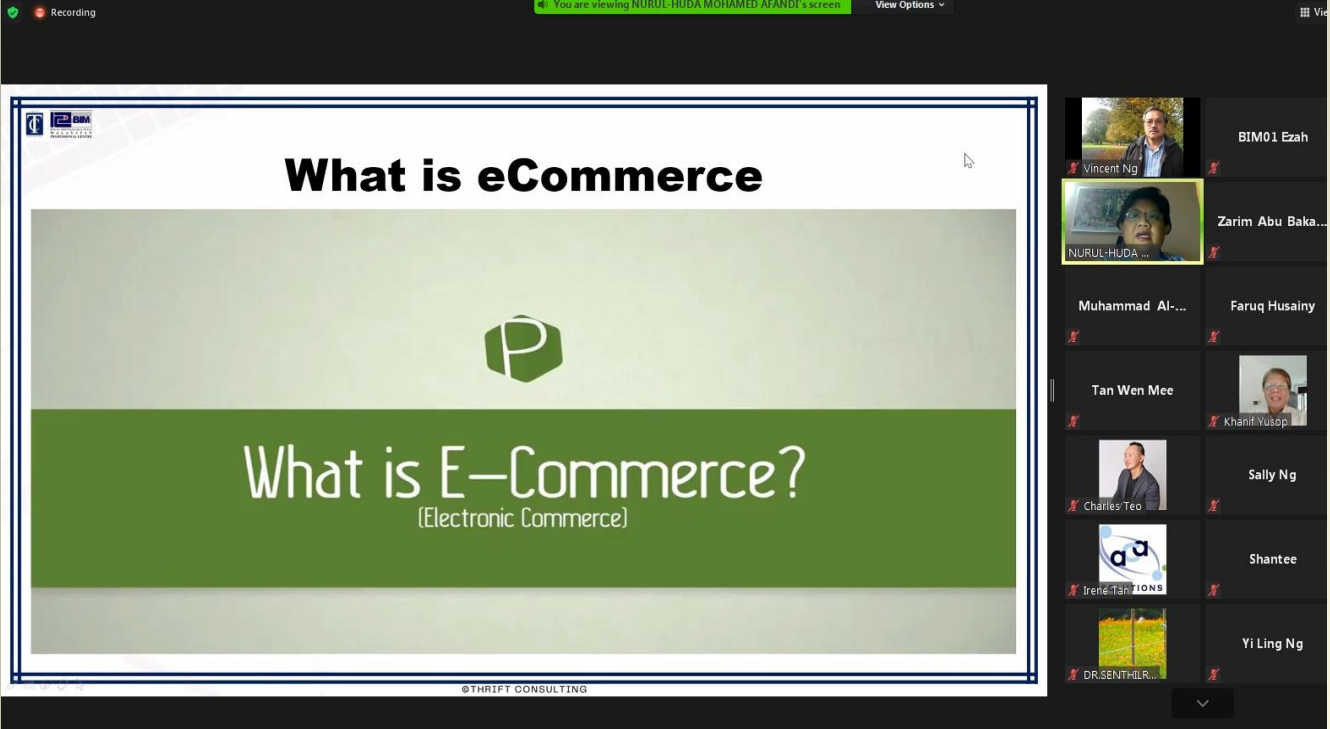
Register at
bit.ly/BIMDRDM
Register by 1st March 2021 to
avoid disappointment!

BIM Events

DIGITAL TRAINING & DIGITAL MARKETING (DRDM) TRAINING SERIES PART 1 (6th & 7th March 2021) PART 2 (20th & 21st March 2021)

As a reward to Member Institutions, Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia was brought an initiative programme called DRDM (Digital Retailing & Digital Marketing) Training Programme which was an online training exposing BIM members to the wonders of Social Media Marketing.

DRDM is a Two (2) Part Training series exclusively designed to foster business competitive edge and sustainability through e-Commerce and Social Media.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide with the following content:

- Top left: BIM logo
- Title: **What is eCommerce**
- Center: A green hexagonal logo with a white 'P' inside.
- Text: **What is E-Commerce?**
(Electronic Commerce)
- Bottom: ©THRIFT CONSULTING

On the right side, there is a grid of participant video thumbnails with their names:

- Vincent Ng
- Zarim Abu Baka...
- Muhammad Al-...
- Tan Wen Mee
- Charlie Teo
- Irene Tan
- DR.SENTHILR...
- BIM01 Ezah
- Faruq Husainy
- Khanif Yusop
- Sally Ng
- Shantee
- Yi Ling Ng

At the top of the Zoom window, it says "Recording" and "You are viewing NURUL-HUDA MOHAMED AFANDI's screen".

ABOUT MEMBERS

**50TH MSSS GOLDEN JUBILEE | NATIONAL WEBINAR:
ROLES OF BIOFERTILIZER IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**
16 March 2021 @ 10.00 am



50TH MSSS GOLDEN JUBILEE NATIONAL WEBINAR

Roles of Biofertilizer in Sustainable Agriculture

"Biofertilizer Benefits on Soil and
Crop Production"

Speaker 1



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Amir Hamzah
Ahmad Ghazali**
School of Biological Sciences
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

"Biofertilizer Technology in MARDI"

Speaker 2



Mrs. Nor Fadilah Abd Halim
*Deputy Director of Fertilizer
Technology Programme*
Soil Science, Water, and Fertilizer
Research Centre (MARDI)

"Alleviation of Biostress, Enhance
Crop Production"

Speaker 3



Dr. Md Hoirul Azri Ponari
Kulliyah of Science
International Islamic University
Malaysia (IIUM)

"Biofertilizer Utilization among
Modern Farmers"

Speaker 4



Mr. Muhamad Nazri Lokman
General Manager
Edaran NM Teguh Trading



Open and free for all!

Come and join us, e-certificate will be emailed to all participants

Date : 16th March 2021
Time : 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (Local MYT +8 GMT)
Venue : Zoom online
Zoom ID : 894 5632 6369
Passcode : msss50year

Moderator



Dr. John Keen Chubo
Faculty of Agricultural Science and Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPMKB)

ABOUT MEMBERS

**EXECUTIVE TALK: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CODE OF CONDUCT:
EMPOWERING THE PROFESSIONALS THROUGH THE MALAYSIA COMPETITION
ACT 2010 (ACT 712 & ACT 713)
16 MAC 2021 @ 9.30 am**




I-KPKT

**EXECUTIVE TALK :
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CODE OF CONDUCT:
EMPOWERING THE PROFESSIONALS
THROUGH THE MALAYSIA COMPETITION ACT 2010
(ACT 712 & ACT 713)**



PANEL 1 :
PROF. MADYA LAR. DR SUHARDI MAULAN
DEKAN FRSB UPM/ PRESIDEN ILAM

SCAN QR CODE
UNTUK MENDAFTAR:





MODERATOR:
PROF. MADYA LAR. DR. NOR ATIAH ISMAIL
PENYARAH KANAN FRSB UPM /
TIMBALAN PRESIDEN ILAM



PANEL 2 :
MOHD HASBULLAH BIN MOHAMAD FAUDZI
PENOLONG PENGARAH KANAN
SURUHANJAYA PERSAINGAN MALAYSIA (MYCC)

LINK WEBEX:



ANJURAN
PUSAT PENGAJIAN PENGURUSAN LANDSKAP
I-KPKT

KOLABORASI BERSAMA





**16 MAC 2021
09.30 AM – 12.30 PM**

CPD ILAM : 2 POINTS

 kpkt.kpkt.gov.my
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 [twitter/kpkt](https://twitter.com/kpkt)
 [Instagram/kpkt](https://instagram.com/kpkt)
 [youtube/kpkt](https://youtube.com/kpkt)

ABOUT MEMBERS

**MSSS 50YR ANNIVERSARY GRAND WEBINAR: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
OF SOIL SCIENCE IN MALAYSIA**
2 April 2021 @ 9.00 am

**MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE (MSSS)
GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION**



**PAST, PRESENT AND
FUTURE OF SOIL
SCIENCE IN MALAYSIA**
2nd APRIL 2021 (FRIDAY) | 9.00 AM



"Soil is Life"
"Our Soil, Our Future"

Zoom Online

MODERATOR
Dr. Norliyana Zin Zawawi
Asst. Hon. Secretary MSSS



OPENING REMARKS
YB Dato' Haji Che Abdullah bin Mat Nawi
Deputy Minister
Agriculture and Food Industries II



WELCOMING REMARKS
Dr. Rosazlin Abdullah
President MSSS



MSSS FORUM PANELIST

**Prof. Dr. Shamsuddin
Jusop**
MSSS Fellow
Past President MSSS



**Dr. Paramanathan
Selliah**
MSSS Honorary Member



**Dr. Ghulam Mohammed
Hashim**
MSSS Fellow
Past President MSSS



**Dr. Hj. Zin Zawawi
Zakaria**
MSSS Fellow
Past Vice President MSSS



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ABOUT MEMBERS

**NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK SYMPOSIUM 2021:
STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AND GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS
27, 28 & 29 May 2021 @ 8.30 am**

**PENGUMUMAN
KEDUA**

**MEMPERKUKUHKAN SOLIDARITI SOSIAL
DAN KETERHUBUNGAN GLOBAL**
(Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness)

  
INSTITUT SOSIAL
MALAYSIA
ILMU • SEGAHTERAKAN • MASYARAKAT
PERKESIAN PEKERJA SOSIAL MALAYSIA
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
UNIVERSITI
MALAYA

SIMPOSIUM KEBANGSAAN KERJA SOSIAL 2021
(National Social Work Symposium 2021)
SEMPENA HARI KERJA SOSIAL SEDUNIA

Tarikh
27, 28 & 29 Mei 2021
Hari
Khamis hingga Sabtu
Masa
8:30 Pagi hingga 12:30 T/Hari
Platform
Dalam Talian (Online)

**Daftar
sekarang!**

Dengan kerjasama

Disokong oleh


INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS

ABOUT MEMBERS

**MPS NATIONAL PHARMACISTS CONVENTION 2021:
“EXPLORATION, INSPIRATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF PHARMACY”
9th – 11th July 2021**




**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021
Deadline
Abstract submission : 15 April 2021

First Call for Abstract!

For more information, kindly scan the QR code



**EXPLORATION, INSPIRATION AND
TRANSFORMATION OF PHARMACY**

The banner features three hexagonal images: a person in a lab coat working in a laboratory, a person in a lab coat working in a laboratory, and a person in a lab coat working in a laboratory.




**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021

Meet our speaker



Tuan Haji Amrahi Buang
President,
Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS).

**“HALAL PHARMACEUTICALS: A NEW VALUE
PROPOSITION”**

ABOUT MEMBERS

MPS NATIONAL PHARMACISTS CONVENTION 2021:
“EXPLORATION, INSPIRATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF PHARMACY”
9th – 11th July 2021





**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021

Meet our speaker



Dr. Syamhanin Adnan
Head of Pharmacy Department,
Hospital Sungai Buloh

**“PHARMACISTS ON THE FRONTLINE IN THE BATTLE
AGAINST THE COVID-19 INFECTION”**





**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021

Meet our speaker



Prof Zhar bin Ismail, FaSC
Principal consultant,
International Halal Industry
Professor, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Universiti Sains Malaysia

**“HALAL PHARMACEUTICALS IN MALAYSIA AND ITS
TRANSFORMATION”**

ABOUT MEMBERS

MPS NATIONAL PHARMACISTS CONVENTION 2021:
“EXPLORATION, INSPIRATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF PHARMACY”
9th – 11th July 2021





**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021

Meet our speaker



Captain Ahmad Nazrin Zakaria
Head of Pharmacy Department
Army Hospital
Syed Sirajuddin Camp
Gemas, Negeri Sembilan

**“FIELD HOSPITAL DEPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19
PANDEMIC: MILITARY PHARMACIST’S PERSPECTIVE”**





**MPS
National
Pharmacists
Convention
2021**
9th - 11th July 2021

Meet our speaker



Prof. Dr. Hiromichi Kimura,
Institute for Future Initiatives,
University of Tokyo

**“LIFESTYLE BY DESIGN: CREATING A MARKET-DRIVEN
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM TO IMPROVE LIVES”**

NEWS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO MIX AND MATCH COVID-19 VACCINES? EXPERT SAYS NO

FreeMalaysiaToday (FMT), 3 March 2021

PETALING JAYA: A senior pharmacist says both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine must be administered from the same type of vaccine approved by the government.

Malaysian Pharmacists Society president Amrahi Buang said those who registered for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme were not allowed to choose the type of vaccine or request to be vaccinated with a different type of vaccine for each dose.

However, Amrahi said the mix-and-match approach to Covid-19 vaccination might be considered for those who had severe allergic reactions after getting their first dose.



Anyone who has a severe allergic reaction after getting the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine should not get the second dose.

“Other than those with an allergic reaction, you cannot mix and match your vaccine doses,” he said in a Covid-19 vaccine webinar organised by the Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy and Research For Social Advancement tonight.

This comes as those who had a severe allergic reaction after getting the first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were recommended not to get the second dose.

Speaking at the same webinar, KPJ Damansara gynaecologist Dr Imelda Balchin advised pregnant women with existing medical conditions or those who work as frontliners to be vaccinated as they are at increased risk of severe Covid-19.

“I think the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the side effects,” she said.

NEWS

However, she added that all other pregnant women should wait before taking the vaccine, at least until studies on the vaccines have been completed.

“For now, we still don’t have enough information on the vaccine,” she added.

Meanwhile, a Putrajaya Hospital nephrologist, Dr Rafidah Abdullah said to ensure the vaccination programme was a success, there is a need to reach out to the people who are still “on the fence”.

She advised people to obtain information on the vaccine from official sources such as the health ministry, Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee, and through the MySejahtera app.

The health ministry had so far given conditional approval for three Covid-19 vaccines.

The three vaccines are Covid-19 AstraZeneca solution for injection, manufactured by MedImmune Pharma BV Netherland; CoronaVac suspension for injection by Sinovac Life Sciences Co Ltd; and Comirnaty concentrate for dispersion for injection by Pfizer.

In a statement, health director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the conditional approval meant that the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency will review the data by these companies.

“This is to ensure the safety and effectiveness of these vaccines are updated constantly as well as the benefits over the risks of these vaccines remain positive.”

NEWS



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 11 MAR 2021

The Vaccination Plan Needs Everyone

The Malaysian Health Coalition (MHC) commends the government's initial efforts in the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, especially in prioritising healthcare workers in Phase 1 of the rollout. That said, we reiterate our call for transparency and inclusivity in executing the programme as its success requires the mobilisation of all Malaysians and residents of Malaysia (refer to our statement dated [15 February 2021](#)).

In particular, we urge the following:

1. Improve transparency across the board

We strongly urge the government to make all clinical trial data submitted to the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) for all approved Covid-19 vaccines available to the public. We also propose establishing an independent adverse event following immunization (AEFI) review committee that reports to NPRA and can contribute to combatting misinformation. All data related to Covid-19 vaccines should be accessible via a central repository such as the one created by the [US Centre for Disease Control](#). Finally, as the MySejahtera app is constantly being updated, users must be assured that their information is recorded and protected in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act 2010.

2. Take vaccine confidence seriously

Only about 12% of the population have registered for the vaccine (as of [8 March 2021](#)). This suggests that vaccine confidence is still very low. It is time for the government to act on, not just talk about, improving vaccine confidence among residents of Malaysia. The approach must be multilingual, multiplatform, and multipronged, involving community leaders of all backgrounds. There must be a proactive effort to improve overall science and health literacy by communicating facts in accessible terms. Higher science literacy has the bonus of helping other vaccination programmes and fighting pseudoscience, fake products, and products with misleading claims.

3. Ensure equity and independence

We welcome the government's decision to allow private general practitioners to administer Covid-19 vaccines, especially to B40 communities (as announced on [8 March 2021](#)). We urge the government to also establish partnerships with private hospitals so all hands can be on deck to ensure available vaccines are administered as soon as possible. At the same time, all government agencies must maintain its independence during the rollout, and not yield to lobby and interest groups. The Covid-19 vaccine is a public good and must be handled as such until all vulnerable groups in Malaysia are vaccinated first.

The government's aim to vaccinate 80% of the population before February 2022 is bold but achievable. It will require all public and private stakeholders as well as individual members of society to work together to make it happen.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

Malaysian Health Coalition

Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org.

11 March 2021

NEWS

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION BILL IN FINAL STAGE OF DRAFTING, SAYS RINA

Bernama, 17 March 2021



Women, Family and Community Development Ministry Datuk Seri Rina Harun

PUTRAJAYA: The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry is in the final stage of drafting the Social Work Profession Bill, said its Minister Datuk Seri Rina Harun.

She said the bill was being drafted to recognise social work as a profession where those in the profession would be required to register and issued with certificate by the Social Work Profession Council.

"The formulation of the bill is important to face social challenges and to safeguard the welfare and well-being of the people, especially children, women, the vulnerable senior citizens, people with disabilities and the needy," she said in a statement today.

The statement was issued in conjunction with the Social Workers Appreciation Night held to commemorate the 2021 World Social Work Day celebration yesterday.

As of December 2020, there are 3,814 officers in various grades serving as social workers in the Social Welfare Department (JKM).

Social work is an activity carried out by professionally trained social workers to improve the well-being and social functioning of an individual, family, group, organisation or community.- Bernama

.

NEWS

VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT OUR MASS VACCINATION PROGRAMME, MPS TELLS PHARMACISTS

FocusMalaysia, 21 March 2021

THE Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) urged community pharmacists to volunteer themselves in the Malaysia Vaccine Support Volunteers (MyVAC) initiative to hasten the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (PICK).



“Let us all volunteer for the third phase of the PICK. The last phase requires massive support at the vaccination centres, totalling 605 places across the nation.

“This call is not only for community pharmacists but also to pharmacy undergraduates and academics in that area of expertise,” its president Amrahi Buang told *FocusM*.

On Jan 11, Amrahi [urged the Government](#) to categorise community pharmacists as frontliners, to get them vaccinated under the first phase of PICK.

“This is particularly important as community pharmacists are facing the public every day, both healthy and ill, and are at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

“With them vaccinated, the public can seek their professional consultation with utmost confidence. Community pharmacy service is recognised as an essential service in any form under the movement control order (MCO),” he was reported saying then.

NEWS

Following the call, the Government recently categorised community pharmacists as frontliners but they would receive the vaccination under the second phase of the mass inoculation programme.

Touching on the Government's decision, Amrahi said he was thankful for the recognition, adding community pharmacists should follow up on it.



Amrahi Buang

"We have submitted our list to the Health Ministry (MOH) and I hope community pharmacists across Malaysia would contact their respective state health offices for further information.

"I was informed that community pharmacists in Kedah and Sarawak had been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines (Comirnaty) recently. From our data, about 89% of the community pharmacists are ready for their shots," he said.

Let community pharmacists help

On what community pharmacists can do for PICK, Amrahi said the former can play three roles to ensure the mass vaccination programme becomes a success story for Malaysia.

One role they can play, he stated, was getting involved in advocacy at their respective locality, to raise awareness on the importance of getting vaccinated and achieving herd immunity against COVID-19.

"They will help alleviate any concerns the public may have on the variety of vaccines used under PICK. Community pharmacists can also assist the people to register themselves using the *MySejahtera* app.

"And we need this because as of now, only 5,867,497 people have registered to get vaccinated, which is way below the Government's target of inoculating 26.5 million people," he mentioned.

NEWS

Secondly, Amrahi added that community pharmacists could also participate in the pharmacovigilance process, by monitoring and reporting adverse event following immunisation (AEFI), as they are well-trained to do so.

“Until today, we still don’t have AERI reports despite already vaccinating 367,213 people, as per COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Special Committee (JKJAV) data,” he mentioned.

On the third matter, Amrahi said that community pharmacists could also be roped in to inoculate people at their nearest vaccination centre, under the last phase of PICK.

He added the Government could also consider bringing in pharmacists from other countries to speed up the vaccination process.

“According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 36 nations have allowed their community pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines to the public.

“Even the Philippines recently trained and allowed its community pharmacists to vaccinate its people. Therefore, MPS hopes that the Government would allow our 20,000-strong pharmacists across Malaysia to participate in the PICK,” Amrahi remarked. – March 21, 2021.

NEWS

MUHYIDDIN: MALAYSIAN FORESTRY POLICY UNITES ALL STATES IN FORESTRY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Bernama, 21 March 2021

KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Malaysian Forestry Policy, launched today, will witness all states coming together on the country's forest.

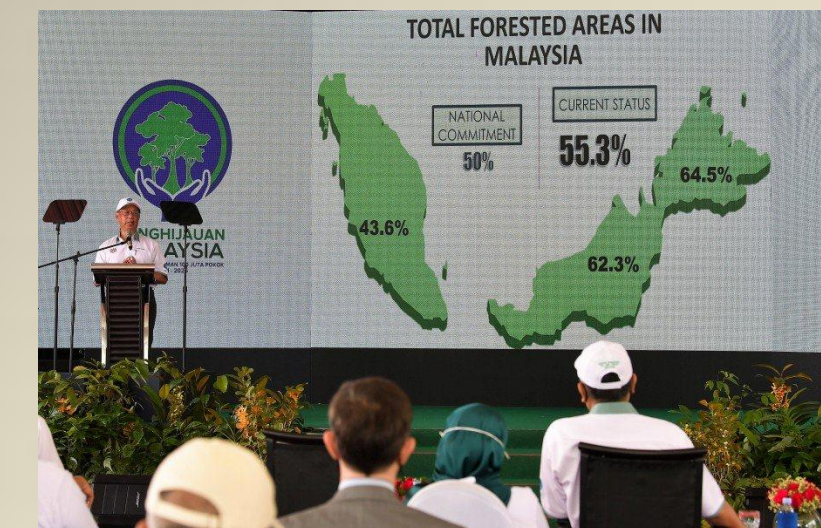
The Prime Minister said all states have agreed to adopt the policy which outlined a clear direction for the forestry sector in facing new challenges at domestic and international levels at the 78th National Land Council (MTN) meeting held on Jan 29.

"I would like to emphasise that the Malaysian Forestry Policy is our shared policy. We must all act and play a more active role as conservation agents and drivers of the country's socio-economic development.

"I hope that the joint efforts of the federal and state governments in implementing the five objectives of the Malaysian Forestry Policy will continue to be strong, to achieve the desired targets," he said.

He said this in his speech before launching the Malaysian Forestry Policy in conjunction with the 2021 National level International Day of Forests here today.

Also present was the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Datuk Seri Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah, with



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin delivers his speech at the Malaysian Forestry Policy launching ceremony in a conjunction with the 2021 National International Forest Day Celebration at the Kepong Botanic Garden, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). -BERNAMA

the virtual attendance of menteris besar and chief ministers.

NEWS

Muhyiddin also said that in order to achieve the goal of becoming a developed country, development is inevitable, but in this case, he stressed that the government is very serious in managing forests responsibly and sustainably in implementing conservation programmes.

"As a responsible and caring government, various efforts were taken to fulfill the commitment pledged during the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by mainstreaming biodiversity management in national development.

"Of the total forested areas in Malaysia, only 1.7 per cent are degraded forest areas. Since 2016, a total of 1,859 hectares of degraded areas have been reforested with an allocation of RM152.82 million," he said.

The Prime Minister said the cost of maintaining and preserving the country's forest areas which cover 55.3 per cent or 18.27 million hectares of the country's land area is enormous and about RM6 billion is needed for the purpose.

He said towards this direction, various special financial instruments were created including the National Conservation Trust Fund for Natural Resources, Forest Development Trust Fund under the state governments in Peninsular Malaysia and the latest, the Malaysia Forest Fund (MFF) which was established last year.

Muhyiddin said through MFF, the country is expected to receive USD100 million (RM400 million) in the next seven years which would be channeled to state governments for the conservation of forest including social forest to raise the socio-economic standard of Orang Asli and the local communities.

As a record, he said based on the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report, Malaysia is among 25 developing countries which have high forest cover and low deforestation activities.

The Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation of the commitment of state governments in gazetted sensitive environmental areas as permanent forest reserve, protected areas, Wildlife Reserve and areas of international interest.

At the same time he also called on state governments to step up efforts to gazette and maintain forest areas as Central Forest Spine (CFS) and Heart of Borneo (HoB).

NEWS

"The Fourth National Physical Plan (RFN4) which is being finalised also emphasises on CFS to ensure the continuity of forest landscape through the setting up of new ecological corridor.

"This approach is able to reduce conflict between humans and wildlife as well as to enable the free movement of wildlife especially national iconic species which are facing extinction," he said.

On threatened species, Muhyiddin called on state governments to gazette the habitat areas of Malayan Tigers as permanent forest reserve or wildlife reserve in their respective states.

He expressed his concerns that if extraordinary actions were not taken now, the country is bound to lose its iconic species such as the Malayan Tiger forever.

Earlier, Muhyiddin also planted a Resak tree or scientifically called *Vatica Yeechongii* which is named after the late Chan Yee Chong (1946-2013), a forest tree identification expert as a symbol of launching the policy and the national level International Day of Forests 2021. – Bernama

NEWS

MMA: MYSEJAHTERA SHOULD ALSO BE MADE OFFICIAL APP FOR COVID-19 TEST RESULT CERTIFICATION

The Star, 28 March 2021

“PETALING JAYA: The MySejahtera app should also be made the official app for Covid-19 test result certification, says the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).

The two tests – reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and antigen rapid test kit (RTK-Ag) – are used by health authorities worldwide to detect the virus.



"MMA believes this would be most practical as one of the app's main features is to provide the user's most updated Covid-19 exposure status.

"For uniformity and consistency, the government should use only one system to record and store individual's Covid-19 data throughout the pandemic," MMA president Prof Datuk Dr M Subramaniam said in a statement Sunday (March 28).

He said this would be besides the app being used to register and generate e-certificates for vaccinated individuals.

At the moment, he noted that laboratories processing the RT-PCR test samples use the Public Health Laboratory Information System (Simka) to report the test results to the Health Ministry before the tested individual gets the test result from the private health care facility.

"Those taking the RTK Antigen tests are informed of their results within an hour by the private healthcare facility.

"It will be good if MySejahtera can generate the Covid-19 RT-PCR and RTK Antigen certificates as well," he added.

NEWS

Dr Subramaniam also said that test results generated by the MySejahtera app will help prevent issues such as fake certificates and middlemen attempting to capitalise on the Covid-19 situation in the country.

"Malaysia and Singapore as well as other countries are now in talks to open up borders for business travel and tourism.

"As such, the government should consider including e-certification for Covid-19 tests via MySejahtera app apart from vaccination certification," he said.

He also said the government should ensure that all embassies in the country recognise the certification from MySejahtera as the official app under the Malaysian government with regard to the recording of individual's personal data and up-to-date health status throughout the pandemic period.

FEATURE

COVID-19 VACCINES AND ALLERGY: LET'S GET IT RIGHT

The Malaysian Reserve, 3 March 2021

THE Malaysian National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme has now begun with the prime minister being the first to receive the first dose of the Pfizer Inc-BioNTech SE vaccine, which is sold under the brand name Comirnaty, on Feb 24.

Three days prior to that, the whole nation was enthralled with the arrival of this long-awaited vaccine after its journey really began when the science diplomacy approach was mobilised by MoH- MOSTI-MFA (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation-Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in April 2020.

While there was excitement in the air then, there were many questions continually asked on the vaccines particularly on its safety.

It is probably appreciated by many that vaccines (for infectious diseases) usually take more than 10 years to produce, but this Covid-19 vaccine in general had taken less than 12 months to produce.

Malaysia had not only the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine accessed, but other vaccines of different types other than mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccines.



Increasing public awareness of allergic reactions to vaccines would assist in identifying those as higher, medium or lower risks

Types of Vaccines

In general, there are four types of Covid-19 vaccines in clinical trials, and several have been produced as we know them.

The four types include nucleic acid (RNA and DNA), viral vector, whole virus (inactivated and live attenuated) and protein subunit.

As noted in our National Covid- 19 Immunisation Programme, there are three viral vector vaccines (from AstraZeneca plc, CanSino Biologics Inc and Gamaleya Research Institute), one whole virus inactivated vaccine (from Sinovac Biotech Ltd), and the one nucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech.

FEATURE

Only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved by Malaysia's National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency thus far.

Vaccine Development

Despite the speed for which these vaccines were produced (and many more are still in the pipeline), all would have undergone many stages in the development cycle of a vaccine.

These would include the exploratory stage, pre-clinical stage, clinical development, regulatory review and approval, manufacturing, quality control and post-marketing surveillance.

Clinical development is a three-phase process. During Phase I, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine.

In Phase II, the clinical study is expanded, and the vaccine is given to people who have characteristics (such as age and physical health) similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended.

In Phase III, the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety.

We can all be assured that no shortcuts were taken for each stage and we can be fully confident on the safety and the required efficacy of these Covid-19 vaccines, as determined by the World Health Organisation.

Potential Reactions

On Dec 8, 2020, UK became the first country in the world to start administering its citizens with a fully trialled and tested Covid-19 vaccine, soon followed by several other nations, including US.

Vaccines often cause adverse reactions; however, the vast majority of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) are due to the protective immune response induced by the vaccine, and not due to allergic reactions.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening form of allergic reaction that may occur after vaccination, with onset typically within minutes to hours.

Anaphylaxis as an AEFI is uncommon, occurring at a rate of less than one per million doses for most other vaccines.

Following implementation of vaccination in the US and the UK, reports of anaphylaxis after the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine emerged. Further surveillance data reported for the US suggest a rate closer to 1:200,000 doses for the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.

Approaching this concern in a more objective way, an allergy risk assessment would assist in determining whether an individual should not receive the Covid-19 vaccines, whether there is a personal background allergy history or otherwise.

FEATURE

In general, allergic reactions to vaccines are generally due to adjuvants and other excipients in the vaccine, such as preservatives, rather than to the active ingredient itself.

The Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine is not formulated with any food, drugs or latex, but does contain the excipient polyethylene glycol (PEG) which an individual may be allergic to.

As a result of this, another excipient that is derived from PEG called polysorbate is found in the two viral-vector Covid-19 vaccines from AstraZeneca and Gamaleya. It has been thought that PEG was the excipient likely to have led to the anaphylaxis cases reported in the US and the UK.

Screening and Stratification

In the risk assessment, stratification of individuals with background allergic reactions, through important screening questions, can be made into higher-, medium- and lower-risk groups. The questions are:

1. Do you have a history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to an injectable drug (intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous) or suppository drug?
2. Do you have a history of a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine?
3. Do you have a history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to food, drugs (non-injectable), insect sting venom (from bees, wasps) and latex?

- Higher risk: If the answer is 'Yes' to questions 1 and 2, then it should be determined whether or not the vaccines or injectable/suppository drugs to be administered do contain PEG or

polysorbate. If they do contain these excipients, then he/she is categorised as higher risk for the Covid-19 vaccines, and would require further assessment by the allergist to determine eligibility for the Covid-19 vaccine.

- Medium risk: If the vaccines or injectable/suppository drugs of which the person declared experiencing previous anaphylaxis did not contain PEG or polysorbate, then he/she is categorised as medium risk. The medium-risk group would also include a person who answered "Yes" to question 3, and has a history of anaphylaxis of unknown cause (idiopathic anaphylaxis). Those categorised in the medium-risk group can receive the Covid-19 vaccine with a 30-minute observation period.

- Lower risk: Other allergic reactions that are not anaphylactic in nature, as well as allergic rhinitis and/or asthma are categorised as lower risk groups, and can receive the Covid-19 vaccine with at least a 15-minute observation period.

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Importance of Public Awareness

Therefore, increasing public awareness of allergic reactions — particularly anaphylaxis — to vaccines and/or injectable/suppository drugs and including allergy history in screening questions would assist in identifying those as higher, medium or lower risks.

Hence, all locations involved in the administration of the vaccines must be fully equipped to manage any potential cases of anaphylaxis. This will increase the level of confidence among the public to receive Covid-19 vaccines in a safe manner, and increase the number of those immunised to provide herd immunity to the nation.

Dr Amir Hamzah Abdul Latiff specialises in Clinical Immunology and Allergy for both adults and children, as well as General Paediatrics, and is currently attached to Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The views expressed are of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the stand of the newspaper's owners and editorial board.

FEATURE

FOAMY URINE A POTENTIAL SIGN OF KIDNEY PROBLEM

The Star, 21 March 2021



Bubbles should be in your drink, not your urine.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a condition whereby there is an abnormality in the structure or function of the kidney for more than three months.

CKD affects 15 out of every 100 Malaysian adults and its prevalence has increased over the years.

According to internal medicine specialist Dr Wong Mun Hoe of Pantai Hospital Klang, CKD is associated with diabetes mellitus, hypertension, obesity, ageing,

use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or herbal medicines.

Signs and symptoms

Common signs and symptoms of CKD include foamy urine, fatigue, swelling (legs, feet, face), weight loss, loss of appetite, difficulty concentrating, difficulty falling asleep, frequent night urination, dry and itchy skin, muscle cramp and puffy eyes.

Foamy urine may occur when you have too much protein in your urine, a potential sign of kidney problem.

Therefore, if you observe that you persistently have foamy urine, please consult your doctor, advised consultant nephrologist and physician Dr Vijaya Bharath Ramasamy of Lam Wah Ee Hospital.

Diagnosis

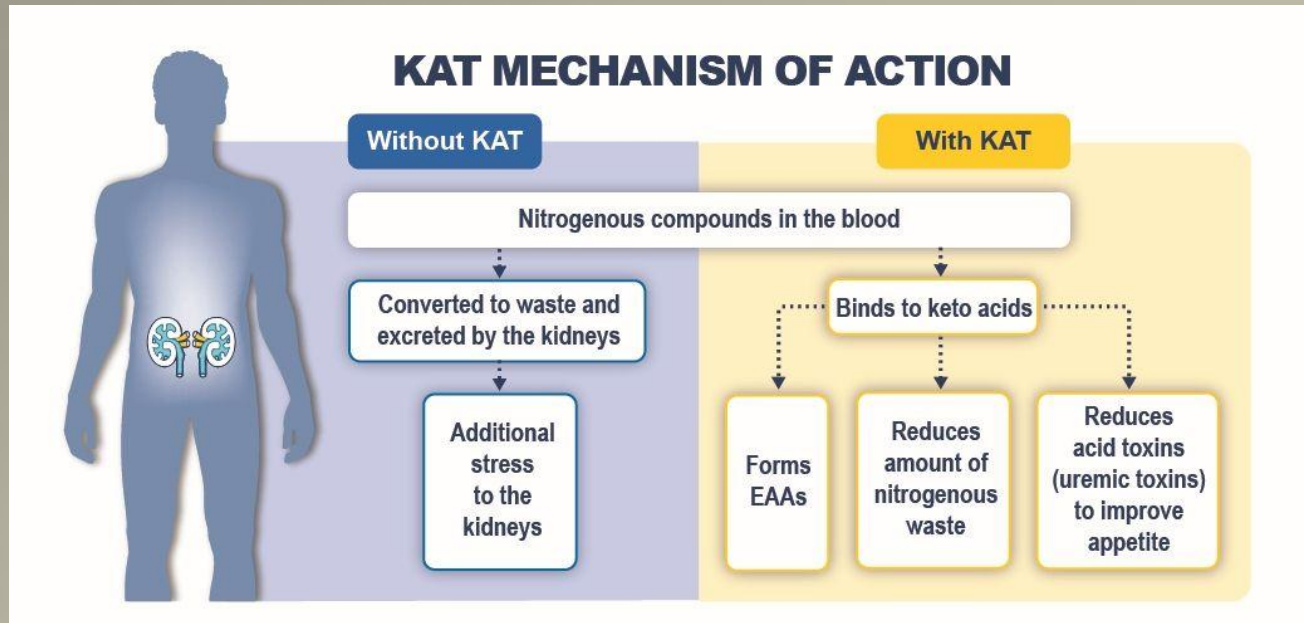
General physician Dr Shafira Mohamad Sha of KPJ Rawang explained that CKD is diagnosed by a combination of tests and procedures which may include blood, urine, imaging (e.g. ultrasound) and biopsy (removing a sample of kidney tissue for testing).

Management

Management of CKD typically includes medication, dietary and lifestyle modifications, and for those with end stage kidney disease, dialysis or kidney transplant.

FEATURE

If CKD is diagnosed early and managed appropriately, patients can live well and delay dialysis for many years



Keto acid therapy (KAT)

Some patients with CKD may be advised to adopt a low-protein diet.

Nephrologist Dr Foo Siu Mei of Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur explains that protein in food will be broken down into amino acids and nitrogenous waste after they are digested, and the kidney is responsible for handling these wastes and toxins.

Keto acid is a special type of essential amino acid that does not contain nitrogen.

Keto acid therapy (KAT) helps in reducing the production of nitrogenous waste and the burden on the kidneys, while supplementing patients with their daily protein needs and maintaining their nutritional status.

It has been shown to slow down the decline of the kidney filtration rate and delay the initiation of dialysis.

FEATURE

Maintenance

CKD can have a significant impact on a person's quality of life and well-being. Therefore, it is important to look after our kidneys.

There are eight golden rules that you can use as a guide:

1. Keep fit, be active.
2. Eat a healthy diet.
3. Check and control your blood sugar.
4. Check and control your blood pressure.
5. Appropriate fluid intake.
6. Don't smoke.
7. Don't take NSAIDs regularly.
8. Get your kidney function checked if you have any "high risk" factors: diabetes mellitus, hypertension, obesity, a family history of kidney disease.

For more information, call 03-7957 2929.

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- Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS)
- Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)
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- Pertubuhan Akittekt Malaysia (PAM)
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