

NYAWA 2012

JURY REVIEW

FARIDAH-HANUM IBRAHIM
DESMOND HO
ROSE ISMAIL
MAHMUD TENGKU MUDA MUHAMED

FARIDAH-HANUM IBRAHIM

This project is about fruits that are found in Malaysia and outside the country. Fruits are commonly perceived as edible and fit for human consumption. This exhibition shows that fruits are more than just this simple notion. It reveals not only the simplicity of looks alone but also the science behind it together with complexity inherent within many species of fruits. There are more than just the Latin names of fruits that falls within the science of taxonomy. There are genetic materials which are coded and passed down from generations which got entangled with evolutionary processes and hence altering them to become new species and varieties. Some fruits are also associated with insects for pollination and thus some peculiar looking fruits like the figs exist in nature. Some fruits like the banana have undergone genetic manipulation to produce the groovy looking and good tasting modern varieties while some fruits are evidence of scientific intervention by tissue culturing them. The sign of archaic science is also shown in dinosaur age remnants of the naked seeds of *Gnetum* (Melinjau). The intricate science of ecology is also seen in fruits which are dispersed by wind such as grasses to control top soil erosion of barren land. Besides the bountiful fruits that feed the world, famous Malaysian ones are also utilized in various ways by traditional and modern culinary science. More than just the edible parts of fruits, some species' waste make high end products such as furniture and flooring. This project succeeded in creating awareness for the laymen to explore the multi-faceted science in fruits in the form of exhibits that are translated into art forms by authors who were willing to let their imaginations go wild to create forms on nature's yield that are considered wonders of art.

DESMOND HO

This program is about helping the scientist express their findings or research in a more effective way. I noticed that when talking about science, the first thing that comes across people's mind is a dull, hard and boring subject. There are a lot of scientific jargons that a layman might not understand. Science usually involves research and it benefits the world as in wonder of nature, there are lots to be explored and learned. In this case, the main focus is fruits.

In order to change the mindset of people, we are lucky now that automation and social media have given us the platform to do 'magic' presentation. I use to tell my customers that plants cannot 'talk' so we have to talk on their behalf. People love stories. People love pictures. People love sound. Go for easy reading and understanding. The stimulation of the senses will create an interesting combination. Therefore, it would be a brilliant idea to bring in a copywriter and graphic designer to help the scientists present their research findings. A good short copy, 3D pictures and graphic effect will 'speak' a thousand words. This is what I call the marriage of Arts and Science.

End of the day, we have to make sure that our presentation makes sense and the message is understood.

ROSE ISMAIL

A quick search on the Internet reveals that most exhibitions tend to focus on the commercial value of fruits. This means that a scientific exhibition that speaks to ordinary people about the value and importance of fruits here in Malaysia will definitely be different and unique. Currently, the various exhibits the binjai, the grass family, etc. come together as a whole under the common theme of being fruits to underscore the importance of such an exhibition and its benefits to society. Using the word NYAWA and how fruits are important to keep us happy and healthy, thus, improving the quality of life, has been done. Even in the case of inedible fruits, it will be necessary to show how these contribute to our collective NYAWA.

This exhibition can attract and intrigue the viewer. The headings for– Naked Seeds and Absent Flowers – is most intriguing. With other similar headings and titles for the various exhibits, the viewer is bound to pay attention.

There are facets and features which can potentially transform the exhibition into a world-class event. Working with the Faculty of Design and Architecture helps as they have the experience with putting up exhibitions. But, unlike the Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition (STEDEX) which are embellished by architectural designs, the NYAWA: FRUIT exhibition needs to depend on photographs, illustrations and infographs. The quality and originality of these are made to achieve international standards. Stories surrounding the exhibits are also important. Each exhibit must either have pictures, drawings and/or diagrams. The following exhibits have been rendered in a creative way using photographs, illustrations, infographs and other multi-media platforms such as live shows and videos.

MAHMUD TENGKU MUDA MUHAMED

Based from various proposals being submitted, the juries try to investigate the product that have some reliable materials especially from visual resources of the science and practice that sustains human life. It strives to develop an understanding and appreciation of fruits through their functions and uses. In choosing the appropriate material, taxonomy is the method by which scientists classify and organize the vast diversity of living things. The unity of this technical information with artistic presentation will enable viewers to sight this exhibition with different perceptions. Flowerless fruit is the unique feature of Melinjaw. Not many are familiar with this unique characteristic. At the same time Binjai, a lesser known species of mango, with its unique catchy smell and irritant white latex is something of interest to the visitors. In Malaysia, genus Artocarpus is famous for its nangka, cempedak and cempedak nangka. The former is considered as among the largest fruits in the world. Displaying these species together with the minimally and fully processed forms will be of interest and meaningful.

Fruits are inevitably had many uses such as for natural fragrance, sources of human benefits such as nutrition and phytochemicals. Highlighting these benefits artistically will encourage appreciation in these creations of Allah SWT especially among children. Herbarium is important to impart appreciation of diversities of tree species among the public. In addition the concept of totipotency can be clearly demonstrated through tissue culture. In what manner a single cell contains enough information to develop into a whole plant can be appreciatively understand through this exhibit. Exhibition of scented durian which brings fear amongst some people is commendable. Hoping that with this selection, it will make this king gaining back his kingdom. Chilli and Malaysians are inseparable. Displaying the culinary chilli is something awakening for the enthusiast. A Malaysian house is not complete without fruit trees. It is associated with bringing serenity to the house and religiously, it is a source of good deeds. If fruit trees are blended with other species forming a thematic garden will enhance the beauty of the house further. Fruits are beautiful features for display due to their uniqueness. Their morphological, anatomical and modified structures when observed microscopically are of their own wonders.