

# Fisheries and Aquacultural Economics Study Programs at the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia

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In 1971, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) was established to provide training in agricultural and related sciences. It was the result of a merger between the College of Agriculture, Malaya (which offered diploma courses from 1931) and the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Malaya (which started degree programs in 1959).

Fisheries and marine science programs began at UPM in 1974 when the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry provided a diploma program in fisheries. The establishment of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences in 1979 with divisions in Fisheries Biology and Aquaculture, Fishing Technology and Marine Science led to the Bachelor of Science (Fisheries) program. The B.Sc. (Fisheries) students receive a broad training in the theoretical and applied aspects of marine fisheries and aquaculture including an introduction to fisheries economics.

The Faculty of Resource Economics and Agribusiness developed an early interest and professional competence in fisheries. Fisheries economics courses for the diploma and B.Sc. (Fisheries) programs are offered, as well as in the B.Sc. (Resource Economics) program. B.Sc. (Resource Economics) students are required to take a course in fisheries science. Each year a number of graduating students choose a fisheries sector problem for their research project. The staff are also engaged in fisheries sector research and serve on a number of government committees concerned with fisheries development and management. Two members of the staff have advanced degrees in fisheries economics.

UPM is not the only Southeast Asian university to offer training and research on the economic aspects of fisheries development and management and to have faculties of fisheries sciences and

economics working together. However, in 1981, the Faculty of Resource Economics and Agribusiness went further by providing a degree specializing in fisheries and aquacultural economics in its graduate program for the Master of Science in Resource Economics.

There are two important reasons for UPM's interest in providing an opportunity for professional training in fisheries and aquacultural economics. The first reason is to strengthen the economic input in fisheries development and management planning and in the day-to-day operation and monitoring of development programs.

The second reason is that within the economics discipline there is a recognized specialization in which economics is applied to the study of fisheries and aquaculture. It is unlikely that a general economist, an agricultural economist, or even a natural resource economist will have been fully exposed to this specialization, and in consequence will not have full professional competence for work on fisheries sector problems.

In the evolution of the graduate program of teaching and research in fisheries and aquacultural economics, the Faculty has obtained assistance from three international institutions: the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), the Agricultural Development Council (ADC), and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM). This assistance includes funds for research and training (IDRC and ICLARM), the appointment of a Visiting Professor in Fisheries Economics (ADC and IDRC), funds for a regional workshop on the teaching of fisheries economics in Southeast Asia (ADC and IDRC), and professional support from the ICLARM staff. In April 1982 the Faculty announced details of the new fisheries economics specialization in its M.S. (Resource Economics) program to begin in June 1983. In May 1982 it announced a non-degree module course designed to enable economists and fisheries scientists



to study the application of economics to fisheries and aquaculture. The course will run from November 1982 to March 1983 and will be repeated in 1983-84. A third activity, a regional Workshop on the Teaching of the Economics of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia, will be hosted by the Faculty in November 1982.

The program for M.S. (Resource Economics) (7 June-15 Oct and 22 Nov-25 March) requires a minimum of 36 credits including 24 credits of course work (8 courses taken over 2 semesters) and up to 12 credits of thesis research. Depending on the time required to complete the thesis the full requirements can be met in about 18 months. Further details of the program and application forms for admission can be obtained from the Dean, Faculty of Resource Economics and Agribusiness, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia. Deadlines for applications: (a) from non-Malaysians—end of January of each school year; (b) from Malaysians—end of April.

The non-degree program in Fisheries and Aquacultural Economics (22 Nov-25 March) is intended for economists and fisheries scientists who wish to study the economic aspects of fisheries and aquaculture but do not wish or need to take the full M.S. degree program. The course consists of the three fisheries economics courses offered to the M.S. candidates plus an elective course from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences or from the Faculty of Resource Economics and Agribusiness.

Admission requirements are similar to those for the M.S. program but as participants are not taking a degree there will be some flexibility in selection. Applications from non-Malaysians should reach the Office of the Dean by 1 August and from Malaysians by 1 October each year. ●