

Foreword

Welcome to the third issue of 2022 for the Pertanika Journal of Science and Technology (PJST)!

PJST is an open-access journal for studies in Science and Technology published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 30 articles; six review articles, a short communication, a case study and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

Another article that we wish to highlight is “The compilation records of fireflies (Coleoptera: Lampyridae) diversity and distribution and display trees throughout Malaysia” by Nurhafizul Abu Seri and Azimah Abd Rahman from Universiti Sains Malaysia. It indicates that firefly species, especially from the genera *Pteroptyx* (*Pteroptyx tener* species), are widely distributed in Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia. Fireflies undergo a complete metamorphosis with four phases in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult, all highly dependent on mangrove plants. Based on the records from the study conducted by previous researchers, it was found that the population of fireflies is declining in some areas in Malaysia, and so are their habitats and host/display trees that have suffered the same decline. Detailed information on this study is presented on page 1963.

A review article titled “Soil erodibility studies in Malaysia” was written by Adnan Derahman and co-researchers from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. Their review mentioned two widely used soil erodibility approaches in Malaysia, mainly to assess the impacts of soil erosion on washed and transported sediments in water bodies and landslide occurrence in slope areas. The methods are USLE and ROM scale. Both methods had advantages and disadvantages depending on the site’s data availability application. Determination of soil erodibility will lead to soil erosion assessment, whereby this input significantly is one of the key factors in local authorities’ decision-making in determining the safety, impact, and mitigation of any physical development in an area. However, the conventional method of determining soil erodibility involves complicated laboratory work. The analysis would be an obstacle to the holistic assessment of soil erosion, especially for erosion-induced landslide risk. Thus, new approaches are needed which practicality in terms of less artistry, time and cost, and simplicity in analysis so that more soil erodibility for soil samples could be determined. Detailed information on this study can be found on page 2139.

Muslim Diekola Akanmu and Norshahrizan Nordin from Universiti Malaysia Perlis had evaluated the hybrid lean practices integrated with IR 4.0 and sustainability in Malaysia food and beverages companies. This study aims to confirm the future direction of the food industry that is recently employing new technologies in its manufacturing systems. This study is underpinned by the theories of contingency and practice-based view by highlighting the contributions of operations management practices to implement successful strategies in enhancing sustainability performance in food and beverages companies through performance variations. Also, the study provides implications and future direction for industry consultants, practitioners, and academicians. Further details of the article are available on page 2271.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of PJST, who have made this issue possible.

PJST is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Chief Executive Editor

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