Strong Determination

TEXA CITY

PERSEVERE AND BE REWARDED
In this issue, we highlight ‘Emotional Strength’, the Third Pillar of Strength within the theme of ‘Strength in Simplicity’.

Tenacity is ‘the emotional quality of being very determined’. The quality of being tenacious is the desire to hold on to our goals in order to witness the results. Overcoming failure and using it to your advantage is the key to success. Together we take a positive step forward in seeking a new point of view to achieve greater outcomes.
Welcome to the third publication of Texview for 2017. Over the past 9 months, we have had many happenings in the group and this resulted in the increase in pages for Texview in 2017. In the current issue, we highlight about Sushi King awarded by the Malaysia Book of Records as the “largest Halal Japanese restaurant chain” in Malaysia. This is indeed a big achievement as the journey for the Halal certification was indeed a long and tedious process and only made possible with the perseverance of the management team from Sushi King. And today, Sushi King is reaping the rewards with 110 outlets certified Halal by JAKIM and the remaining 6 outlets are Halal compliant awaiting audit.

On the social front, Texchem Ladies’ Club once again had the honor of hosting a birthday celebration for their Patron, Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi. The intimate birthday luncheon was attended by only 17 selected ladies and we enjoyed Chinese fine dining at Chin’s Stylish Chinese Cuisine. Three days later, Tan Sri and Puan Sri Konishi had the honor of welcoming the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Malaysia, His Excellency Valery Yermolov to a concert performance by the Kalashkov family at Villa Primavera.

In this issue, we also highlighted the retirement of Mr Philip Ng and Mr Ahamd Slleh, both long time employees and the secondment of Mr Goh Chin Meng once again to Myanmar. All the best to the 3 gentlemen as they embark on a new chapter.

We also announced the winner of the “Foodie Feast” which you can check out on page 36. This quarter Texview is introducing a new contest; “Texview’s Trivia Contest”. Test out how well you know Texchem and Texview by just answering 5 simple questions. Check out what are the contest rules and the prizes on page 37.

The objective of Texview is to share information on developments within the company and to foster a greater sense of belonging within the company. As such, we would like to hear from you, whether it’s a story, an idea or updates on your company activities.

Very soon, we will be reaching the end of 2017. As the year draws to a close, it is a good time for us to reexamine ourselves and analyse our goals, experiences and relationships. I would like to sign off my message with a quote by Ralph Bunche “To make our way, we must have firm resolve, persistence, tenacity. We must gear ourselves to work hard all the way. We can never let up.”

Editor’s Message
PERSEVERE AND BE REWARDED

“To make our way, we must have firm resolve, persistence, tenacity. We must gear ourselves to work hard all the way. We can never let up.”

- Ralph Bunche

ADELINE YEOH
Editor
## TABLE OF Contents

### AROUND THE GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Editor’s Message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>President &amp; Group CEO’s Message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Calendar of Events - October 2017 to January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Sushi King honoured as Largest Halal Japanese Restaurant Chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Signing of Letter of Intent (LOI) between Acumen Scientific Sdn Bhd and UKM - Makmal Bioserasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Asia Plastics Forum 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>In House Training - Companies Act, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Intrapreneur Hunt No. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Happy Birthday Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Kalashkov Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Malaysian Japanese Society’s 50 Years Anniversary Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wishing you a Joyous Retirement, Mr Philip Ng!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>EnerZ Indoor Extreme Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Food Division Myanmar Operations Welcome back Mr Goh Chin Meng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Charity Pacifier Run 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIFESTYLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Amiway for a Better Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>The Gift of Blood is the Gift of Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Hari Raya Buffet Lunch Celebration at Texchem Material Johor Bahru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Hari Raya Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Zumba for Texchem Ladies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Hike up to “Coffee Hill”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Foodie Feast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Texview’s Trivia Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Employee Interview on Texchem awarded Employer of Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Honouring Milestones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>The Hard Truth Keeping Life Going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Healthy Lifestyle - Badminton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Welcome Aboard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EDITORIAL BOARD 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDITOR</td>
<td>Adeline Yeoh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS</td>
<td>Abdul Rajak Bin Mohamed Yassin, Bogalaxmi A/P Shanmugam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRCULATION OFFICERS</td>
<td>Winnie Lim, Maisarah Bt Zainon Abedin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTOGRAPHER</td>
<td>Ahmad Saidyudin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUL - SEP 2017**
“Let us continue to drive forward with Tenacity and wake up every morning with a sense of strong Determination.”

President & Group CEO’s Message

Dear Texchem Family Members,

Pressing on into Q3 2017 with Strong Determination – As the world economy continues with rapid movements, showing signs of growth, Texchemers pursue the goal with Tenacity. We are now at the end of Q3 2017. Armed with strong Perseverance we continue to focus on long term growth as we sail through this business cycle.

Business development activities continue to take center stage throughout Q3 2017 with participation by our Industrial Division in the Asia Plastics Forum 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar and Acumen Scientific signing a collaboration with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia just to name a few. A feather added to our cap is the recognition accorded by Malaysia Book of Records to Sushi King as the “Largest Halal Japanese Restaurant Chain” in Malaysia. I would like to congratulate our Sushi King team for this great accomplishment. I would like to recognize and appreciate the Restaurant Division team for the determination demonstrated since the beginning of our Halal journey, and today we have become the largest Halal Japanese restaurant chain in the world.

Q3 also saw many exciting staff activities around the Group centered along the lines of the Aidil Fitri celebrations, exercise and fitness, blood donation and staff training programs. Our Ladies’ Club had the great honor to organize a birthday luncheon to celebrate the birthday of their Patron, Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi, Happy Birthday and many more years of celebration to come.

Loyalty and dedication being the hallmark of Texchem saw the retirement of Mr Philip Ng, the Managing Director of Texchem Malaysia who joined us in 1987 as a Chemist and working with Texchem for 30 years. En. Ahmad Slleh, Mr Yap’s driver, retired after serving Texchem for the past 32 years. Congratulations on your retirement and we wish you a long and joyous retirement.

Dear Texchemers. Let us continue to drive forward with Tenacity and wake up every morning with a sense of strong Determination. Before I end, I would like to remind all Texchemers to hold close to our hearts at all times our Integrity & Accountability Pledge. We see corporate scandals happening all around the world today due to the lack of integrity and as such, please be reminded that we must uphold our integrity at all times.

Thank you.

BRIAN TAN
President & Group CEO

JUL - SEP 2017
October 2017 to January 2018

**OCTOBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 WED</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 THU</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Mainland &amp; Bayan Lepas - Chai Leng Park &amp; Elite Avenue (Public Class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 SAT</td>
<td>Hiking - Mt Kinabalu Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 WED</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 THU</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Mainland &amp; Bayan Lepas - Chai Leng Park &amp; Elite Avenue (Public Class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 THU</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Mainland &amp; Bayan Lepas - Chai Leng Park &amp; Elite Avenue (Public Class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 TUE</td>
<td>Health Screening - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Level 18 Pantry, Menara Boustead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 WED</td>
<td>Health Screening - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 WED</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 THU</td>
<td>Zumba Class - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Mainland &amp; Bayan Lepas - Chai Leng Park &amp; Elite Avenue (Public Class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOVEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 SAT</td>
<td>Hiking - Mt Kinabalu Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 SAT</td>
<td>Putrajaya Night Marathon 2017 (Company Sponsored Run)</td>
<td>Dataran Putrajaya, Precint 3, Putrajaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 TUE</td>
<td>Blood Donation Campaign Central Region</td>
<td>Wisma Texchem, Subang Jaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 WED</td>
<td>Health Talk &amp; Result Consultation - Texchem Ladies Club</td>
<td>Level 18 Pantry, Menara Boustead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 SAT</td>
<td>Texchem Sport Meet 2017</td>
<td>USM, Penang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 SUN</td>
<td>Penang Bridge International Marathon 2017 (Company Sponsored Run)</td>
<td>Penang Bridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02 SAT</td>
<td>Hiking - Mt Kinabalu Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 WED</td>
<td>Texchem Group 10 Years' Service Award</td>
<td>G Hotel Kelawai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 SAT</td>
<td>Hiking - Mt Kinabalu Club</td>
<td>Penang Island - Danz Club, 1 floor above Penang Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 FRI</td>
<td>Year End Party</td>
<td>Pantry Level 18, Menara Boustead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JANUARY 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 FRI</td>
<td>Texchem Group Managers' Conference</td>
<td>Macalister Ballroom, E&amp;O Hotel Penang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 SAT</td>
<td>Texchem Hikathon X</td>
<td>Penang Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Malaysia Book of Records (MBR) has recognised and awarded Sushi King as the ‘Largest Halal Japanese Restaurant Chain’ in Malaysia with 97 outlets as at February 2017. Since then, Sushi King has continued its aggressive expansion. As at September 2017, Sushi King now has a total of 116 outlets, and growing.

The certificate giving ceremony was held on 31 July 2017 at Sushi King Sunway Pyramid. The certificate was presented by Mr Christopher Wong, Chief Operating Officer of MBR to Mr Hiroki Mori, Deputy Managing Director of Sushi King. This was witnessed by representatives from both companies.

At Sushi King, all food ingredients are Halal certified and complies strictly to JAKIM requirements. Being the Largest Halal Japanese Restaurant Chain in Malaysia, Sushi King is committed to serve quality, safe and Halal Japanese cuisine to all Malaysians, at great value.

Coincidentally, the MBR was first published in 1995, the very same year that Sushi King was born!
Signing of Letter of Intent (LOI) between Acumen Scientific Sdn Bhd and UKM - Makmal Bioserasi

BY THUM KHAH MING (ACUMEN SCIENTIFIC SDN BHD)

4th August 2017 marked an important day in the calendar of Acumen Scientific Sdn Bhd as it was the day where the signing of the LOI between Acumen Scientific and Makmal Bioserasi, UKM took place. The signing of the LOI officialised the close working relationship and cooperation between Acumen Scientific and Makmal Bioserasi, UKM in the field of scheduled waste testing and analysis where both parties will utilize the strengths in their respective laboratories to provide a full testing package to the customers - Acumen Scientific in the testing of physical and chemical properties, and Makmal Bioserasi, UKM in the testing of health hazards of scheduled wastes. This day also marked an important milestone for both parties as much effort has been placed to make this working relationship a success after the idea of working together was first mooted by Mr Ridzuan Ismail (Managing Director, Acumen Scientific) and Prof. Madya Dr. Nor Fadilah Rajab (Head of Makmal Bioserasi, UKM) at the end of 2016.

The signing ceremony on the day started at 3pm with the opening speech by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Fauzi Mohd Zain (Director of Centre for Research and Instrumentation Management (CRIM), UKM), followed by our very own Mr Ridzuan Ismail. Both speakers highlighted the importance of the LOI as well as their hope and aspirations for this close working relationship where both parties will be able to gain mutual benefits. After the speeches, it was time for the official signing of the LOI. Acumen Scientific was represented by Mr Ridzuan Ismail while UKM Makmal Bioserasi was represented by Prof. Dr Muhammad Fauzi. Witnessing this important ceremony was Dato’ Brian Tan (President and Group CEO of Texchem Resources Bhd), as well as Prof. Madya Dr. Anuar Osman (Test Facility Manager, Makmal Bioserasi CRIM, UKM), Prof. Madya Dr. Nor Fadilah and other staff of Makmal Bioserasi, UKM.

Next was the exchange of gifts between Acumen Scientific and Makmal Bioserasi, UKM where small gifts were given to the representatives of both parties. This was followed by a photo taking ceremony at the garden area of Makmal Bioserasi, UKM. After that, all the guests were invited for a tea break session where they were served delicious mee soto in the guest reception area, before the event officially concluded at 4.30pm.

With the signed LOI, Acumen Scientific and Makmal Bioserasi, UKM are strongly motivated and committed to make this working relationship a long and successful one, and hopefully this will lead to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both parties in the near future!
I was most privileged to be assigned by my Division CEO, Mr Yap KK to attend the 27th Asia Plastics Forum 2017 (APF) as well as the 2nd Council Meeting of the 17th term ASEAN Federation of Plastic Industry which was held from 13 to 15 September 2017. I attended as one of the 17 delegates from Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA).

This round the event was organised in Myanmar and as such, Myanmar Plastic Industry Association (MPIA) hosted us during the 3 days. The event was held at Novotel Hotel Yangon with over 200 participants from 15 countries.

On the first day was a full day meeting and during the meeting, matters related to the forum were discussed by the committee. This was followed by a welcome dinner where all of us were treated to local food and entertainment by local singers.

The 2nd day kicked off with the official opening of the Asia Plastics Forum 2017 with a ribbon cutting ceremony by MPIA Chairman, APF Chairman and several Myanmar officials. This was followed by a presentation by the Director-General from Directorate of Investment and Company Administration who shared on the benefits for foreign investors investing in Myanmar; such as Myanmar’s strategic location which links many countries, namely India, China, Thailand and Laos. Furthermore, Myanmar is currently one of the fastest growing countries with many natural resources. The Director-General also shared what are the country’s challenges; especially infrastructure issues. Power supply and limited pool of skilled labours in the country are the major challenges for foreign investors at the present moment.

On the 3rd day, the forum emphasized on marine litter and the recycling of plastics. The speakers were Ms Susan Ruffo (MD of International Initiatives, Ocean Convervancy), Dr Han Zhang (Asia Pacific Sustainability Leader, Packaging & Specialty Plastics of Dow Chemical Company) and Ms Sarah Perreard (Global End Users Leader & Sustainability Value Chain Leader of DuPont Performance Materials) and Mr Karl Foerster (MD of Plastics Europe).

At the end of the 3rd day, we were treated to a Gala Dinner at Novotel’s ballroom.

Throughout these 3 days, I gained knowledge on the business opportunities and challenges in Myanmar and enhanced my knowledge on the plastic recycling process, but the most important was I got the opportunity to enhance my networking with the leaders of Plastics Association from Asia.
On 19 June 2017, Texchem Corporation Sdn Bhd conducted an in-house training on the topic “Impact and Compliance of Companies Act, 2016” at Vouk Hotel, Penang. The training was attended by the Group Legal and Secretarial team and Finance team from respective divisions.

The new Companies Act 2016 was passed by Parliament in May 2016 and has come into effect on 31 January 2017. The changes in the new Companies Act 2016 impact across the business cycle in Malaysia. It has emphasis in simplifying company incorporation, modifying capital restructuring, enhancing corporate governance and financial reporting. The implication of the new Companies Act will simultaneously improve Malaysia’s alignment with international standards by adoption of simplification, comprehensives and flexibility, in creating an integrated corporate legal framework for business and organisations.

Ms Leong Oi Wah was the trainer for this seminar. Oi Wah is a Fellow Member of the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA) and has more than 30 years of experience in handling corporate secretarial matters in the profession and the corporate sector. Besides that, she is also involved in advisory on corporate secretarial requirements including corporate restructuring and compliance with various regulatory bodies such as the Registrar of Companies, Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, Securities Commission and other authorities. She also does regular training for the Companies Commission Malaysia Training Academy and other professional bodies.

The training has delivered a practical approach and legal overview to comply with the new Companies Act. The significant transitional issue and new challenges were presented to the participants. The trainer also explained the key issue and requirements under the new Act for the company secretaries and accountants to be in a position to make the necessary preparations and implementation appropriately.

This was indeed a fruitful day for all the participants as it enabled us to gain more in-depth knowledge and understand the key changes on the new Companies Act.
The first time I heard of the Intrapreneur Hunt, a program introduced by Mr Brian Tan, was from my Myanmar colleagues after they attended the Group Managers’ conference in Penang. In my mind, Intrapreneur Hunt in Texchem is “CEO working a day with you”. In my case, I had “2 days with the CEO at work”. I was both surprised and honored when I received an email from Mr Brian on 2 August with the subject: Foo Wen Kuan - Intrapreneur No. 6. Furthermore, I was lucky to have an extra day as Mr Brian spent two days with me during his trip to Myanmar! TWO DAYS!

My Intrapreneur program started with U Maung Sitt, Mr Goh Chin Meng and myself welcoming Mr Brian & Mr Metoki from the Yangon International Airport. We then proceeded for a light meal before departing to Labutta. The travel time from Yangon to Labutta was five hours. To be honest, I was really nervous at the beginning of the journey, but as Brian struck up a conversation with me, we spoke quite a lot and I started to get comfortable. An appreciation dinner was hosted for our local crab suppliers upon our arrival at Labutta. The main objective of this dinner was to show our management's appreciation to our local suppliers as well as to our local key staff. During the dinner, Mr Brian presented a token of appreciation to the crab suppliers for their continuous support to our Labutta operations. With the presence of Mr Brian during that night, I could feel the relationship between us and our local suppliers further strengthened and our local key staff were also happy that their contributions to the company were acknowledged and appreciated.

We started the next day with a light breakfast at our farm before we proceeded to the Soft-Shell Crab farm and factory visit. This was followed by another meeting between our local key staff with our HQ top management including Mr Ng Bak Kuang and Mr Goh Chin Meng. During this session with our local key staff, Mr Brian expressed his appreciation to our Labutta operations team who managed to achieve strong sales record for the past 3 months with a peak monthly volume of 40MT Soft-Shell crab output! Mr Brian also expressed that our company’s key asset is the human resources. We visited the Labutta hard shell crab wholesale market in town prior to departing from Labutta to Yangon for a further understanding of the current raw material supply situation. During this second day, Mr Brian shared with me his experiences and ideas on how I can solve problems efficiently as well as how to communicate better with the other stakeholders. The day ended with dinner in Yangon joined by Hanada-san (Surimi expert from Nippon Suisan and our old friend) who was on transit in Yangon, from his Myeik trip.

Thank you, Mr Brian for this valuable opportunity where I learnt a lot over the 2 full days. I would like to quote the words which Mr Brian imparted to me - Always “Refresh, Rethink & Reorganize” (3R).

Je Ju Tin Bah deh!
Happy Birthday Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi!

BY KHAW TEOH SU PING (TEXCHEM-PACK (M) SDN BHD)

On Wednesday, 27th September 2017, Texchem Ladies’ Club (“TLC”) organized a birthday luncheon to celebrate Puan Sri Atsuko Konishi’s birthday.

The birthday luncheon is an event to thank and pay tribute to Puan Sri Atsuko who inspires, cheers on, and had given Texchem ladies her full support ever since the inception of TLC in 1989 to promote overall personal growth and development to facilitate advancement within the organization and society.

Puan Sri Atsuko was joined by 17 Texchem ladies comprising past and present TLC committee and long serving staff to celebrate the occasion at the exquisite Chin’s Stylish Chinese Cuisine. Invited guests enjoyed fine Chinese cuisine at tables positioned along the length of the restaurant which overlooks the Straits of Malacca, held in private for this special occasion.

The conversation, laughter, fun and celebrations are as usual fascinating with the presence of the extraordinary Puan Sri Atsuko. We chatted, ate, sang the birthday song and had a cake cutting ceremony where everyone wished Puan Sri Atsuko the very best in the year to come, and may she continue to be showered with happiness, good fortune, and great health always.
I am counting the number of times the Kalashkov family consisting of a Trio, came to Villa Primavera for their private performance since 2007 – a total of 8 times over 10 years, and still going on. That’s amazing.

Alexander Kalashkov is not only a violinist, but also concert master of the Bolshoi Theatre Chamber Orchestra in Moscow. Maria and Sofia are his twin daughters. Maria is a pianist and resides in Hanover, Germany, while Sofia plays the viola and is one of the leading musicians of the Russian National Orchestra.

The salon concert at Villa Primavera on 30 September 2017 was a special evening, as hosts Tan Sri and Puan Sri Konishi had the honor and privilege to receive and welcome the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Malaysia, His Excellency Valery Yermolov and his charming wife, Madam Irina. Russian Consul based in Penang, Mr Teoh Seng Lee and his wife Ms Louisa were also present to receive the VIPs.

As usual, about 75 regular invited guests are like-minded classical music lovers from the prominent social circle of the Penang community. They were entertained with popular classics like Tchaikovsky’s “Sleeping Beauty”, Saint-Saens “Samson And Delilah” and “The Swan” from the Carnival of the Animals, Mendelssohn’s Piano Trio No. 1 op 49 and Fantasia on Themes from “Faust”, just to name a few. The encore pieces were spectacular and as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation to the musicians who put in so much effort for the overwhelming performance, Madam Irina, wife of the Ambassador presented them a beautiful hand-bouquet each.

A hearty and sumptuous Japanese kaiseki menu specially prepared by Sakamaki san of Miraku, and paired with exquisite wines hand-picked by the host, were served, much to the delight of guests – just like a festive atmosphere worthy of the greatest tastings….
Malaysian Japanese Society’s 50 Years Anniversary Celebration
BY TEOH YIT MING (TEXCHEM RISK MANAGEMENT SDN BHD)

Malaysian Japanese Society (MJS), a non-profit organization founded in 1968, promotes deeper understanding and meaningful relationship between the people of Malaysia and Japan through cultural exchange and promoting the learning of Japanese language and culture among Malaysians.

On 17 June 2017, MJS organized its 50th Anniversary Dinner at Hotel Jen Penang with a beautiful kimono show as the highlight of their program. Before the dinner, speeches were given by the Organizing Chairperson, Miss Hirano Hiroko, followed by the President of MJS, Mr Choo Shing Lai, and the Consul-General of Japan, His Excellency Mr Ito.

During the dinner, MJS has performed their Japanese classical music performance.

Fumi Kobayashi, the Master of kimono dresser was invited to the dinner to demonstrate the art of wearing a kimono. We are indeed amazed at the art of wearing a kimono as this requires patience, concentration and creativity.

The fashion show featured various types of kimonos for different occasions, Sokutai, Junihitoe, Monpuku, Uchikake, Kurotomesode and Chufurisode.

Sokutai and Junihitoe are the male and female royal wedding attires which have been worn since the eighth century. This kimono is the hardest kimono to wear as it consists of 12 layers and it requires an expert to put it on. Monpuku for male and Uchikake for female are the traditional wedding attires. Kurotomesode is a formal kimono for ladies while the Chufurisode is for unmarried ladies.

Thanks to Texchem and Tan Sri F Konishi, female Texchemers who attended the dinner learnt more about Japanese culture and the various types of beautiful kimonos. There was also a lucky draw session with attractive prizes and the grand prize was none other than a kimono! Texchemers are usually lucky when it comes to lucky draw and this dinner was no exception. Wei Nee won jewelry while Ing Ting walked away with a set of essential oils.
Wishing you a Joyous Retirement, Mr Philip Ng!

BY OH SHY YUNN (TEXCHEM MATERIALS SDN BHD)

On 16th August 2017, a dinner was held at Villa Primavera to thank Mr Philip Ng Chern Jang for his 30 years of service with Texchem and also to bid him a fond farewell on his retirement.

Philip joined Texchem Malaysia Sdn Bhd as a Chemist way back in year 1987, after graduating from University Sains Malaysia. The founding of Texchem Malaysia Sdn Bhd marked the birth of Texchem Group’s Industrial Division. Due to his hardworking attitude, he has produced a variety of chemical catering to the textile industry for Texchem Malaysia Sdn Bhd. In the past, Philip was also responsible for helping to set up Texchem Malaysia’s factory. He also managed to expand the business to the overseas market. Philip was promoted to Director when he was 37 years old and had a steady career rise until he retired as Managing Director of Texchem Malaysia on 18 August 2017. As for the next phase of his life, Philip would still remain active by contributing more of his time in church activities and to give back to the community.

Mr Philip Ng is an example of a lifelong Texchem employee in which Texchem was his first job since he graduated from university. Despite his vast experience and long service in Texchem, Philip has always remained humble and was a capable Managing Director. He was a caring boss, a good role model and was also willing to mentor his staff despite his busy schedule.

We would like to convey a heart-felt goodbye to someone who has made such an important contribution to the growth of the company. Philip Ng, you will be dearly missed! Congratulations on a wonderful career, and all of us at Texchem wish you all the best as you embark in this next phase in your life. May you have a long and joyous retirement!

(A separate farewell gathering for Mr Philip Ng was held by the staff of Texchem Malaysia on 15 August 2017).
Ahmad Sleh bin Shapiee who has served as Driver to our President & CEO, Mr Yap Kee Keong for the past 12 years retired on 30 June 2017.

Sleh’s career with Texchem started on 1 February 1985 at Fumakilla Malaysia Berhad. He was then transferred to Texchem-Pack (M) Bhd in 2002 and finally to Texchem Materials Sdn Bhd in 2016, following Mr Yap Kee Keong’s transfer to head the Industrial Division. During his 32 years’ tenure with the company, he was a diligent and responsible driver with a very pleasant personality and always ready to lend a helping hand to his fellow colleagues.

To show our gratitude, we organized a farewell lunch for him at E&O Hotel, attended by Mr Yap, the Group HR team, his fellow colleagues and of course yours truly. It was a great gathering with Sleh sharing with us his experiences with the company and his retirement plan.

Our colleagues from the Presidential Department and Group Legal Department had also organized a farewell lunch for Sleh on 6 July 2017 to appreciate and celebrate the friendship established over the years.

Last but not least, let’s wish Sleh a wonderful retirement and may he enjoy the fresh new chapter of his life!
Food Division’s Myanmar Operations
Welcome Back Mr Goh Chin Meng

BY FOO WEN KUAN (ASK ANDAMAN LIMITED)

Mr Goh first joined Texchem Group of Companies on 2nd September 1997 as the Operations Manager of Eye Graphic Sdn Bhd based in Prai, Penang. Goh’s career grew in Texchem and in the year 2003, he was promoted and transferred to the Presidential Department of Texchem Resources Berhad as the Assistant General Manager. After serving 2 years in the Presidential Department he was promoted and transferred to Myanmar Operations of Food Division as the Deputy General Manager, based in Myeik. After serving 3 years in Myeik, Goh returned to be based in Texchem Food Sdn Bhd in Penang as the Senior General Manager. In the year 2009, Goh was promoted to the position of Executive Director of Texchem Food Sdn Bhd and then promoted to the position of Deputy Managing Director of Texchem Food Sdn Bhd in the year 2014.

Goh now returns to the Food Division Myanmar Operations from 1 August 2017 as the Deputy Managing Director of Myanmar Food Division Operations which encompasses Texchem Food Myanmar Limited, ASK Andaman Limited and Texchem Marine Labutta Limited. We wish Goh all the very best in his new role in Myanmar.
On 20th August, Texchem Resources Bhd sponsored a group of 63 Texchemers, some with their children in tow to participate in Mount Miriam Cancer Hospital’s Charity Pacifier Run 2017. This is the third series of their signature charity runs. This year, the charity run was in aid of their Paediatric Fund and to support Children Cancer Awareness, thus the theme “It’s the Tot that Counts”.

During the event, participants were given a baby pacifier which was the gimmick and icon for this run. The run flagged off at 7am sharp from its venue sponsor, Gurney Paragon Mall. The 4 km run was an eventful one with an estimated 1,500 participants with over 100 kids as well. Participants consisting of seniors and the young posed for pictures with pacifiers in their mouths and some even ran with the pacifier in their mouth. There were some who came dressed up in superhero outfits! What a sight! Those who completed the run were given a baby-shaped pewter finisher medal. Other highlights included lucky draws with over 60 prizes.

Mount Miriam announced that they successfully raised RM260,000 from this event. When a child is diagnosed with cancer, it affects every member of the family and nearly every aspect of the family’s life. As the cost for cancer treatment and medication escalates, this puts strain on most families involved. As such, this charity fun run was a great opportunity for everybody to work together to help the less fortunate cancer patients and spread children cancer awareness among the community.
Amiway for a Better Society
BY KHIN THWE HTOO & ZAW WIN KYAW (ASK ANDAMAN LTD)

Amiway, the internal voluntary club formed by our Texchem employees working in Myeik, Myanmar. During the initial stage of formation, the purpose of the Club was to help needy employees with regard to education. However, it has been inactive for some time, and recently on 29 July 2017, Amiway was reactivated with the renewed purpose to reach out to the local society and focus more on philanthropic activities.

Amiway is the exclamation word commonly used by local people in Myeik that yearns to “Mother”. The main objective of the club is to promote the participation of members to carry out philanthropic tasks together without the involvement of politics, religion and racial discrimination.

The motto of Amiway is “Let’s join our hands for a better society”. Most of our employees enthusiastically joined the Club as members and we have in total 250 members. Every second Sunday of each month is the activity day of the members.

The first activity was conducted on 13 August 2017 at Thanthayar Aye Monastic School (also the shelter for orphans) by offering meals for lunch to approximately 650 students, cleaning the school compound including lawn mowing, spraying of pesticides and herbicides, upgrading and repairing the toilet and sanitary system, and sharing knowledge of personal hygiene with the students. Management staff led by Mr Goh Chin Meng joined the 80 members in the half day activity and everyone participated with great joy.

On 17 September, Amiway performed its second activity once again in this Monastic School. 90 members and Management staff took part and each and every one put in their effort to make the surroundings and living condition better. During this second visit, our members also presented toys as gifts to the orphans and organized fun games for the kindergarten students.

We believe that our Club will gradually grow bigger and stronger as we saw the excitement and eagerness of the members during these initial activities. Some of the programs in the pipeline are blood donation, water donation to places experiencing water shortage due to drought, supporting orphanages, cleaning public areas such as hospitals and schools, and environmental conservation in any way possible.

While implementing philanthropic activities to help others and to foster a better society, Amiway activities will also benefit the members by promoting unity and the spirit of teamwork. These will in turn improve productivity and working relationship, which will eventually contribute positively to the image and reputation of the Texchem family as a whole.
The Gift of Blood is the Gift of Life

BY BOGALAXMI SHANMUGAM (TEXCHEM CORPORATION SDN BHD)

The Blood Donation campaign is an annual CSR activity of Texchem Group. This year we organized the Blood Donation campaign on 26th September at two venues, our HQ at Menara Boustead Penang and Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd, Perai. We also welcomed employees from other companies located at the Menara Boustead building to take part in this campaign. The response this year was quite encouraging and we had a total of 46 successful donors. As a token of appreciation, Texchem Resources Bhd presented each donor with a RM20 Sushi King or Aeon voucher.

We wish to continue this significant event for the coming years and encourage more Texchem employees to be a blood donor hero.

“There is no substitute for human blood. Blood cannot be manufactured; it can only come from generous donors.”
In conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Texchem Materials JB organized a Hari Raya buffet lunch at TexMat’s conference room on 12th July 2017. Staff from Acumen and Texchem Malaysia stationed at Texchem’s JB complex were also invited to join the lunch.

A day before the buffet lunch, our admin team was seen busy decorating the white board with Raya greetings and colourful lighting was set up in the conference room. Tables and chairs were neatly arranged. All this effort was to ensure that everyone had a good time.

On the morning of 12th July 2017, the caterer arrived to set up the food. We had traditional Malay food such Gado-gado, Set Soto, Nasi Serai, Ayam Masak Merah, Ikan in Blackpepper, Kambing Briyani, Paceri Nenas, Bergedel and desserts included Caramel Banana Roll and fruits. Traditional kuih-muih such as Batang Buruk, Ketupat, Lemang, Lepat and Dodol was also served.

At 12.30pm sharp, the Hari Raya buffet lunch started with about 30 Texchemers happily tucking in the lunch. The lunch served received the thumbs up from everyone. This was also a good time for Texchemers to relax while interacting among each other. It was indeed a memorable moment for all who joined and we look forward to the next festive celebration.
Marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan is the festival of Eid, known in Malaysia as Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Hari Raya Puasa. Ramadan is a period of sober repentance for Muslims, with approximately 30 days of dawn-to-dusk fasting. Adherents to the faith means devoting much of the month to worship, charitable deeds and acts of compassion.

In celebration with Hari Raya, Texchem Corporation Central Region hosted a Raya Celebration lunch at Wisma Texchem, Subang Jaya on 12 July 2017. In conjunction with the “Hari Raya” theme, employees were encouraged to dress in Malay traditional attire to spice up the overall event.

Let’s gather together and we shall have a great meal. This further affirms the core values of Texchem where UNITY comes in all form. Here are snapshots of our celebration.
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Staying true to this age-old adage, Texchem recognized the importance of the play element in “resetting” our many hardworking employees. Therefore, Group Human Resource Department in central region organized an indoor event on 8 July 2017 at EnerZ Indoor Extreme Park.

Most of the indoor theme parks in KL often languish in the shadows of giant amusement parks but not anymore with the newest attraction in Subang Jaya, EnerZ Indoor Extreme Park, all are within the confines of an 80,000 sq. ft. space. Forget about the boring carnival rides; think of the theme park as a boot camp for amateurs except you will want to visit the attractions again and again.

We had a total of 36 participants divided into 4 groups. Majority of the participants have not played extreme games before, so it was not surprising to see the looks of excitement and anticipation. Many questions were asked and doubts were cleared by 9.15 am before everyone proceeded onto the trampoline, where the games started.

It was an exciting and fun session. All our work stress melted away the moment we stepped onto the field. The playful characteristic of the “little kid” deep down inside every one of us made us forget our work challenges with one another as we battled each other out. We cheered our team mates on from the side lines. We even had friendly banter about how some of our colleagues should or shouldn’t be playing. It definitely fostered a high degree of camaraderie amongst us.

Extreme games are indeed fast-paced but fun activities that promote healthy competition among those who dare to give it a try. It never fails to deliver its promise of an exciting and thrilling adventure of wits and tactic. More importantly, it is an excellent morale booster for all Texchemers who seized the opportunity at becoming weekend warriors that day!
Hike up to “Coffee Hill”

BY TAN CHOOON HUNG (TEXCHEM FOOD SDN BHD)

Bukit Larut, formerly known as Maxwell Hill (also known among the locals as “Kopi Sua” or “Coffee Hill”), is a hill located 10 km from Taiping, Perak, Malaysia. It is approximately 1,250 meters above sea level and surrounded by a huge rainforest. Maxwell Hill was a British hill station set up for the comfort of British staff in the 1800s. There is not much changes since then and the colonial feel has been retained with its quaint bungalows and English gardens.

On 1st July 2017, we met up at Penang HQ and Acumen Scientific, and departed at 6.30 am by coach for Mt Kinabalu’s Hike up Maxwell Hill. After an hour’s journey, we arrived at the foothill. There are two alternatives to reach summit; by hiking up or by a four-wheel drive. As Texchemers, we of course selected the more challenging option and hiked approximately 10km up.

We began our hiking session after a proper warm up exercise. Along the hiking trail, we came across lots rare flora and fauna, but we could not find any plants related to coffee even though this hill is referred to as “Coffee Hill” by the locals.

We reached the top after a few “torturous” hours, but were greeted by an amazing view which made the climb up all the more worthwhile. We started taking pictures while waiting for our other colleagues.

At 12pm, we were served a mini buffet. The feeling of having a meal while enjoying the natural beauty from the top was amazing. After lunch, we took a four-wheel drive down. This proved to be an exciting moment as I felt like I was on a roller coaster ride. The ride down took 15 minutes with countless sharp bends.

After the hiking session, we went to a coffee factory located in downtown Taiping. We learnt about Malaysia’s local coffee about how it is processed from bean to a cup of coffee.

On behalf of the Texchemers who attended the hike, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the committee of Mt Kinabalu Club for this wonderful and unforgettable one day trip! We definitely look forward to more activities!
Zumba for Texchem Ladies

BY WINNIE KHO (ACUMEN SCIENTIFIC SDN BHD)

Zumba is the most awesome workout ever where you dance with great music, great people, and it is able to burn tons of calories to lose unwanted weight. I am sure Zumba is very famous nowadays and you have heard your friends around you talking about Zumba. This is the second year that Texchem Ladies’ Club (TLC) organized weekly Zumba classes after receiving great response from the participants last year.

The number of participants have increased from previous year with a total of 39 ladies from Prai & Penang signing up to enjoy Zumba this year. Mr Kenny Ho is our instructor and the only guy in our class. He is friendly and packed with energy. He taught us many choreographed moves which we have not learnt before. We found it interesting, a lot of fun and look forward to attending the weekly classes.

Our first class started in May 2017 and shall be ending in Oct 2017. Every Wednesday, the classes are held at Danz Club @ Penang Bowl and Thursday at Chai Leng Park, Prai. This year, our company also started sponsoring employees’ Zumba lessons at a public class in Elite Avenue, Penang to cater for staff working in the Bayan Lepas area. A special TLC shirt, tumbler and cap were given to ladies who signed up for Zumba classes this year as our program souvenir.

Zumba is an exercise fitness program which involves full body workout and I believe it is a perfect workout to relieve stress after long hours of sitting and working in the office. Surely one will feel one’s worries melting away with the upbeat moves and music played during the one hour class. Furthermore, it also aims to bring together ladies from various companies in Texchem, so that we get to know each other better, and that is extremely fun. Zumba brings us happiness especially when our class ends with the song “Don’t Worry Be Happy” – by Bobby McFerrin!
Foodie Feast
THANK YOU TO OUR FELLOW TEXCHEMERS FOR TAKING PART!

Name : Yun See Wei
Company : Texchem Corporation Sdn Bhd
Restaurant: Sushi King, 1st Avenue Penang

WINNER

Name : Winnie Lim Pei Chen
Company : Texchem Resources Bhd
Restaurant: Sushi King, E-Gate Penang

Name : Siti Saerah Binti Mohammad Sharif
Company : Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Restaurant: Sushi King, Auto City
Texview’s Trivia Contest

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND WIN!

This quarter, we are pleased to introduce a new contest segment for fellow Texchemers to participate. Take part and find out how well you know Texchem. Stand a chance to win attractive prizes too! Read on...

Trivia Contest Rules

Eligibility:
This contest is open to Texchemers who are below the AGM level.

How to Play:
- There will be 5 trivia questions related to Texchem.
- Each participant is only allowed one entry.
- Participants must type out the question and corresponding answer in a word document and email the word document file to Ms Boga at boga@texchemcorp.com
- Participants who answered all questions correctly will be entered into the drawing.
- All entries with correct answers must be received by 20 November 2017 to be entered into the drawing.

Prizes:
RM50 WORTH OF SUSHI KING VOUCHERS OR EQUIVALENT. A maximum of 4 winners will be randomly drawn. Good luck!

Let us see how well you know Texchem. Here are the questions to Texview’s Trivia Contest no. 1

1. What is the name of the company which marked the birth of Texchem Group?

2. Which company in Texchem Group provides an extensive range of analytical testing and consultancy services in the field of environment, chemistry and microbiology?

3. In which issue of Texview can you find the article “An Excellent HR Recognition for Texchem Group”?

4. What is the name of the Sushi King promotion which is valid from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017 that was uploaded in Texchem Group – Official’s FB page on 3 October 2017?

5. Who is the Chairman of Texchem’s Corporate Affairs Committee?
Employee Interview on Texchem awarded Employer of Choice

In conjunction with Texchem Resources Bhd awarded the Silver for Employer of Choice in 2016, Texview is conducting a series of interviews with our long serving staff. The candidates for our third series are Mr Shahrir Nadzri, Business Development Director of Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd and Mr Soh Chee Weng, Assistant General Manager, R&D of Texchem Food Sdn Bhd.

How long have you been with Texchem?
I joined Texchem Group and started off at PKG Plastics Technology Sdn Bhd (now known as Texchem-Pack (Johor) Sdn Bhd). My 24 years with the company is coming up soon and I feel lucky to be with a large organization throughout my working life. It has been a great ride!

What are your roles? What aspect of your role do you enjoy most?
Since beginning of this year my new role is being responsible for the Heavy Gauge Plastics Thermoforming's overall performance and the management of all strategic and operational marketing and customer relationship activities with the Aerospace & Automotive Interior Industry segment. I also work with other departments to ensure alignment of company revenue goals set by senior management are met.

I would like to say that I enjoy giving direct support to the operational team in a way that really makes a difference. The contribution I make is vital to their ability to make key Aerospace manufacturing superb quality parts which ultimately influence the overall success of the business. I enjoy the challenge, I enjoy the responsibility and I enjoy the methodical and precise approach which is necessary for me to deliver the best results to the organization.

What has been your favorite project at Texchem and why?
In 2003, I was entrusted on a new task; to approach Seagate Technology in Minnesota, US to qualify our newly developed formulation for in-house extruded sheet of TXP8000 High Impact Polystyrene Black Conductive for Thermoforming materials. It was a very major project.

This also proved to be my most complex challenge as it was the first time I was given a leadership position both for design and marketing. I had to ensure that after each decision was made, everyone had the resources needed to pull things together and that there was effective communication from both engineering and operation teammates. Seagate had requested us to thermoform with TXP8000 material from our initial new conceptual design Hard Disk Drive of Ultra8 HSA Shipping Tray until complete drop-test final approval. Working together with the Polymer team, in-depth evaluation of several lots of material analyses for contamination and cleanliness tests needed to be performed consistently. That meant a lot of coordination, presentations and follow-ups plus travelling to all Seagate sites, including Science Park in Singapore, Korat in Thailand, Longmont in Colorado and Bloomington in Minnesota.

Finally, after seven month’s from execution to the full qualification, Seagate has awarded us the official material approval and we continued to expand our high volume production capacity for seven years. I think the TXP8000 material approval has been my greatest accomplishment with Texchem.
What are the 3 words to describe Texchem?
Making A Difference

Texchem won the Silver Award for Employer of Choice in 2016. In your opinion, what factors contributed to this?

Opportunity for Growth
I feel Texchem encourages employees to continue to develop their existing skills, and also learn new skills. Texchem provides various trainings that help employees achieve this and allow them to follow their aspired career paths.

Empowerment and Authority
At Texchem, employees are empowered to make decisions and we take responsibility as to how we can perform in our jobs. Divisions are given a strategic framework that encompass the company's vision, mission, values and goals, and employees will feedback and propose the best way to perform the core functions and make steady progress towards achieving the goals.

Involvement
Most Texchemers feel a sense to belonging with the company, as they are involved at various stages of decision making. We are encouraged to offer suggestions, brainstorm on new products, innovate, and be a part of an employee committee (for e.g. CAC) to plan various events and work processes.

Job Security
When employees are confident of the employer's strong financial background as in the case of Texchem Group, it makes us feel secure. It frees us from the concern of losing our jobs and thus, we are able to fully concentrate on our job.

Performance Culture
Texchem as an employer of choice smartly ties the performance and the interests of employees with those of their own. Texchem has accomplished this through various systems that ties back rewards to performance and total recognition.

Texchem is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2018, what do you think is Texchem's success factor?

There are No Great Companies, Without Great People.
Tan Sri Konishi himself has proved to be a strong leader by example of his vision, mission and strategic planning for the company’s future growth.

Our senior management team possesses great talent which is something inborn in an entrepreneur. And those talents are something that can be converted to knowledge, skills and total execution to ensure Texchem continuous success.

What is the one thing you can’t live without?
My family (living in Johor Bahru). I will contact them late evening to ask is there anything I can do for them. I cannot replace my family because they have been with me all my life and have shaped and molded me into the person I am today. When I feel down, they cheer me up and motivate me to jump over any hurdles holding me back. They always encourage me to try my best and to always get up and keep moving even when times are difficult.

What are three career lessons you have learned?
I have learned the following :

• Taking risks will take you somewhere new. I changed my role at age 30 and started all over. It took me to where I am today.

• Remain humble, but be proud of your achievements. It is great to give credit more than taking credit but when it’s your turn to be given credit, be proud and accept it fully.

• Never stop learning because it gives a person courage. The more knowledge I gain on a product, the more confident I feel.
Employee Interview on Texchem awarded Employer of Choice

How long have you been with Texchem?
13 Years (Joined Texchem Consumers in 2004 & Texchem Food in 2007).

What are your roles? What aspect of your role do you enjoy most?
Developing hatchery technology for the seed production of the mud crab. Particularly enjoyable was the opportunity of working with like-minded people to pursue something relatively new.

What has been your favorite project at Texchem and why?
Developing the Recirculating System (RAS) for the larval-rearing section. Particularly interesting were the process taken and the outcome of the work – both of which provided a private sense of accomplishment.

What are the 3 words to describe Texchem
Foresighted. Open. Consistent.

Texchem has won the Silver Award for Employer of Choice in 2016, in your opinion what factor contributed to this?
Besides fulfilling the criteria set by the Awarding Committee, I congratulate those managers who have been committed in setting examples in delivering the corporate core values – ie. Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Competency, Empowerment & Innovation - values of which most employees appreciate & be able to emulate accordingly.

Texchem is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2018, what do you think is Texchem’s success factor?
Foresight.

What is the one thing you can’t live without?
My beating heart

What are three career lessons you have learned?
Decide early if you wish to pursue something you love doing or something that makes you rich. Best if the two comes together. Focus on your objectives & strive to be good in what you have chosen to do in life. Develop original thoughts.
Honouring Milestones

Let’s celebrate the exceptional dedication and outstanding contribution of Texchemers who have reached an important milestone!

30 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Acumen Scientific Sdn Bhd
Ridzuan Bin Ismail
Managing Director
Date Joined: 01.08.1987
Year of Services: 30 years

25 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Mohd Kodri Bin Salleh
Supervisor
Date Joined: 04.07.1992
Year of Services: 25 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem Food Sdn Bhd
Goh Chin Meng
Deputy Managing Director
Date Joined: 02.09.1997
Year of Services: 20 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem Materials Sdn Bhd
Lee Siew Ching
Executive
Date Joined: 29.07.1997
Year of Services: 20 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Eye Graphic Sdn Bhd
Lim Peng Chiang
Assistant Sales Manager
Date Joined: 01.07.1997
Year of Services: 20 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem Materials (Vietnam) Co. Ltd
Lim Wei Heng
General Director
Date Joined: 01.09.1997
Year of Services: 20 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Rajasekaran A/L Letchumanan
Senior Production Manager II
Date Joined: 16.07.1997
Year of Services: 20 years

20 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Munisperan A/L Krishnasamy
Senior Engineering Manager II
Date Joined: 13.08.1997
Year of Services: 20 years
Honouring Milestones

Let’s celebrate the exceptional dedication and outstanding contribution of Texchemers who have reached an important milestone!

**15 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Texchem Polymers Sdn Bhd**

Chien Siew Leng  
**Assistant Finance Manager**

Date Joined : 15.07.2002  
Year of Services : 15 years

**Texchem-Pack (PP) Sdn Bhd**

Habibah Binti Nawi  
**Operator**

Date Joined : 02.07.2002  
Year of Services : 15 years

**10 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Texchem Resources Bhd**

Abdul Rajak Bin Mohamed Yassin  
**Senior Manager II**

Date Joined : 02.07.2007  
Year of Services : 10 years

**Eye Graphic Sdn Bhd**

Hoo Siow Hua  
**Designer**

Date Joined : 10.09.2007  
Year of Services : 10 years

**Texchem Materials Sdn Bhd**

Oh Shy Yunn  
**Department Manager**

Date Joined : 02.07.2007  
Year of Services : 10 years

**Texchem Polymers Sdn Bhd**

Chan Kah Fai  
**Assistant R&D Manager**

Date Joined : 03.09.2007  
Year of Services : 10 years

**Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd**

Normaira Binti Roslan  
**Senior HR & Admin Officer**

Date Joined : 02.07.2002  
Year of Services : 15 years

Nor Hanifah Binti Ahmad  
**Operator I**

Date Joined : 01.09.2007  
Year of Services : 10 years
10 Years’ SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Texchem Life Sciences Sdn Bhd
Ahmad Shopan Bin Mohd Nor
Senior Supervisor
Year Joined : 01.08.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem Life Sciences Sdn Bhd
Mohamad Shafie Bin Jalal
Senior Supervisor/Charge man
Date Joined : 01.08.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (Thailand) Co. Ltd
Ampapan Onbudee
Assistant QA Engineer
Date Joined : 21.08.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Zulkifli Bin Mat Rashid
Operator I
Date Joined : 01.09.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (M) Sdn Bhd
Termizi Bin Shamsuddin
Senior Operator
Date Joined : 01.09.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (Vietnam) Co. Ltd
Doan Tuyet Nhung
Supply Chain Manager
Date Joined : 31.07.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (PP) Sdn Bhd
Koay Chong Hee
Manager
Date Joined : 09.07.2007
Year of Services : 10 years

Texchem-Pack (PP) Sdn Bhd
Khor Guat Ee
Senior Manager I
Date Joined : 03.09.2007
Year of Services : 10 years
The Hard Truth
Keeping Life Going
- the Singapore Experience
BY DATO’ ABU BAKAR ABDUL HAMID (TEXCHEM RESOURCES BHD)

Hard Truths
The late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore, once wrote a book called “Hard Truths to Keep Singapore Going”. This book is thought-provoking, touching on issues on how he dealt with political opponents, whether his party could lose its grip on power, whether the younger leaders are up to the mark, international issues affecting Singapore, the immigrants’ issue as well as many other demanding issues affecting Singapore during his time. Mr Lee stayed in the public eyes for 60 years – as the leader who steered Singapore to independence and transformed the Republic into a First World country.

Early Beginning
My life story is not even a small fraction of what Mr Lee Kuan Yew had gone through, except that mine too had its earlier beginnings in Singapore. To me life in Singapore happened by chance rather than by choice. My mother was a poor Malay “kampong” housewife and my father, well I did not really know what my father was doing. People said that he was a “Mata-Mata Gelap” (secret policeman) and that earned him to be called “Hamid Gelap”. One day while he was asleep, I was curious to find out what looked heavy and bulging from his trousers pocket that was hanging in the house. It was a revolver, yes! He was armed! And this confirmed to me that he was really a “Mata-Mata Gelap”.

As far as I could remember, my father was hardly at home leaving us under the sole care of my mother. I was then too young to understand what was going on between my father and my mother – and eventually father and mother divorced when we were very young. Poverty forced my mother to send me to live with the family of my uncle in Singapore way back in 1959. Little did I know then that this would really be the beginning of a significant turning point in my life.

The Singapore Years
Life was far from comfortable throughout most of the Singapore period that lasted from 1959 to 1968. There I was, a young boy, with no father, mother or brother, no money and hardly any proper education. I was under the strict guidance and custody of an uncle who also has 4 children of his own. I ran errands for my uncle’s family doing all sorts of things required in the house. I had to sell “nasi lemak” and “kueh” at the army barracks to supplement the family income. On some days I carried two basketful of eggs selling them from house to house at the Clementi Army Barracks. I also worked as a kitchen helper in a small Mamak’s Warung receiving a small pay. At times I would be adventurous and roamed around Singapore in an old bicycle given to me by my uncle. I probably had toured every square kilometer of Singapore on a bicycle. And life goes on as I drifted with no meaningful course – things just happened. Going by this score, I thought I would end up nowhere being in a fast growing country like Singapore at that time.

The Cambridge School Certificate Examination
If God can turn night into day, He can also turn a burden into a blessing. I was already 14 by then and suddenly realized that I had to do something for my future and to resume schooling which I left for quite some time. But by then, I was already too old to be admitted into any public school. However with the help of my uncle, I managed to enroll into a private school and later studied through government sponsored night classes. The objective was to prepare myself to sit for the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, an examination that usually a normal school student sits for after completing 10 to 11 years of full-time schooling in a public school. There I was with little basic education, only completed standard 5 from a Malay-medium school from my “kampong” with a big mission to conquer and pass the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. Further to that, I had the challenge of switching from a Malay medium to an examination conducted in the English language.

So be it and I had to keep going. I have learned that when life gets hard one has to keep moving forward one step at a time. From 1962 to 1964, I attended a private secondary school and subsequently enrolled myself into a government-sponsored night school meant for those who did not have the opportunity to attend normal schooling. Meanwhile my normal day activities and my commitments to my uncle’s family proceeded as usual.
Did It My Way

With my handicaps, I tried to work “smart” the shortcut way and admittedly studied only to pass the examination. I mustered the subjects’ syllabuses for those subjects that I was sitting for. Though this is not the correct way to acquire knowledge but who cares! – as long as I pass the examination, I thought to myself. Honestly speaking, I analyzed and studied past years’ exam questions and did my own predictions of what questions would likely appear.

And finally came the D-day – the Cambridge School Certificate Examination in November 1967 which I sat for in Singapore and passed with a Division 2 or Grade 2. Considering the fact that I did not have the opportunity to attend proper full-time schooling, I was quite pleased with the results and that Grade 2 was still a comfortable achievement during that time.

Conclusion

It does not matter how I achieved it and who cares anyway! With the Cambridge School Certificate it was really my first official academic Passport for meeting subsequent requirements in the later parts of my life. Looking back and reflecting on those years that I was in Singapore, I have learned that I may not be the smartest person but I succeeded because I kept going and going and going. Most of us will experience hard choices, stressful events and difficult situations. But you have got to force yourself to get up. You force yourself to put one foot before the other. You fight, you cry, you curse! Then you go about the business of living – that’s how it should be done.

My gratitude goes to those people who were directly or indirectly responsible for what I am today – my late mother, uncle and aunty and also my late father. Also to my brother who has always been there to give me the encouragement and support.

Sacred Heart Boys’ School, Singapore 1962 (girls admitted as well).”

The writer is circled in pink.
A healthy lifestyle leaves you fit, energetic and at a reduced risk for diseases. Good nutrition, daily exercise and adequate sleep are the foundations for continuous good health. A group of us at Texchem with a common interest for badminton decided to rent a badminton court at SJK(C) Kheng Tean every Tuesday evening to keep ourselves healthy and maintain a close-knit bond with one another. Here we share some benefits of playing badminton.

Playing badminton, whether for fun or on a competitive level will improve your overall health significantly when done for at least 30 minutes a day. According to official health institutions, one should raise your heart rate for a minimum of 30 minutes a day to keep your metabolism at a healthy rate as well as to lower your resting heart BPM (beats per minute).

Badminton is often a total body work out. When you playing badminton, you will be moving and using muscles that you are not always aware of. By moving your body quickly around the court and swinging your racket to retrieve the shots, you are exercising almost every muscle in your body without even thinking about it.

Another benefit is it helps us reduce our stress level. Stress is the cause of almost all illness and disease. As such, we need to lower the stress hormone, cortisol, by indulging in regular physical activities. Lastly, playing badminton with my colleagues have enabled me to socialise with my colleagues from other subsidiary companies and this in turn, improve our working relationship as we share a lot of laughter during the weekly badminton games.

Your life does not get better by chance, it only gets better by change. The beginning is always the hardest especially for those who seldom exercise. Why do I say this? This is due to my own funny experience. I stopped playing badminton for a long time and when I started playing again, my whole body was aching the next day. However as time goes by, my body got used to the workout and I feel healthier and more nimble now. Thus, do join us for a fun and healthy game and together we can lead a healthier lifestyle.
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