

The third Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Biotoxins National Workshop on “Systematic and Advanced Methodologies in Harmful Algae Monitoring” successfully accomplished

A four-days HABs and Biotoxins National Workshop was jointly organized by the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES), UM, National Oceanography Directorate (NOD), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), and UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission sub-commission for the Western Pacific-HAB project (WESTPAC-HAB). The workshop is part of the efforts to counter-measure the increase of fish kill at aquacultures areas and shellfish poisonings in the country, with regards to the needs of enhancing and standardizing monitoring activities among the agencies involved.



The workshop took place at Bachok Marine Research Station, IOES, UM, Bachok, from August 12 – 15, 2014. It drew over 37 participants, including representatives from government agencies (Department of Fisheries, Biosecurity Division of Fisheries), research institutes (Fisheries Research Institute, Science and Technology Research Institute of Defences) as well as researchers and postgraduate students (UKM, UPM, USM, UMK, NUS). A series of lectures was delivered in the four-day workshop by the renowned experts in the field, with distinguished speakers from Japan and Malaysia. In the workshop, participants were given hand-on training on basic and advanced techniques in HABs monitoring. This included the various sampling techniques in HAB monitoring, species identification by microscopy, and rapid molecular detection of HABs species.





An IOES Seminar Series, with the theme “*Harmful Algal Blooms Management*” was conducted in conjunction with the workshop. Nearly 60 participants attended the seminar. The talks were given by Emeritus Prof. Dr. Yasuwo Fukuyo (University of Tokyo), Prof. Dr. Gires Usup (UKM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Po Teen (IOES, UM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iwataki (University of Tokyo), Dr. Leaw Chui Pin (IOES, UM), and Dr. Lim Hong Chang (IOES, UM).



The workshop also included active discussion regarding issues related to current status and challenges of HABs monitoring system in Malaysia. At the end of the workshop, the comments from all participants were that they were better equipped with knowledge in handling HABs issues, which achieved its objective in enhancing the human capacity in dealing with prevailing HABs events in the country.

