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Taxonomy and Plant Conservation



Professor Dr. Rusea Go is a Plant Taxonomist and Conservation expert in UPM. She was Head of Canopy Science Lab-oratory, Rainforest Academy, UPM in 2005 – 2006 and later a Program Manager in Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products (2007 – 2011). Rusea has contributed immeasurably to teaching and research (plant taxonomy/diver-sity and conservation), and extension work related to her expertise nationally and internationally. She has supervised 23 postgraduates and 160 undergraduates in the field of Plant Taxonomy and Conservation, Ethnobotany and Plant Phylogenetics. Rusea has dedicated half of her life into studying biodiversity in Malaysia. Her knowledge covers a wide spectrum of organisms, which includes taxonomy of seaweeds, pteridophyte and lycophytes, Moraceae, Fagace-ae, the genus Teijsmanniodendron (Lamiaceae) and the orchids. To date, she has published more than 200 scientific papers, 4 books and 25 EIA and Consultancy reports, which were published and presented in local and international refereed journals.

CURRENT RESEARCH INTEREST:

Current research has been focusing on Plant Systematics (Orchidaceae, Lamiaceae, Fagaceae, Moraceae), Lycophytes and Fern Taxonomy and Cytology, Phylogeny of Orchidaceae in Malaysia and DNA barcoding of Rare and Endangered Plants (majority orchids) of Malaysia. Apart from assessing species diversity, the research also involves investigating active compounds in Moraceae and documentation of traditional knowledge on plant uses among ethnic groups in Malaysia. Our phytochemical research group has discovered many new active compounds potentially developed into medicine.

