

# FASM AND IMB ORGANIZED A MINI-WORKSHOP ON API KIT AND VITEK2 FOR MICROBIAL IDENTIFICATION FOR UMT STAFF AND POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS

By: Dr. Mohd Nizam Lani, nizamlani@umt.edu.my  
Department of Food Science  
Faculty of Agrotechnology and Food Science

Identification and characterisation of microorganisms is a key part of the management of food safety and quality, tracing contaminants and troubleshooting problems if there is a possibility of cross-contamination from microbes. Identification of an unknown species is part of routine for microbiologists or food scientists, especially when dealing with foods that are suspected with microbial contamination. Therefore, the accuracy of the microorganism identification is of importance to avoid flawed results and misidentification of microorganism.

In 1970, API completely revolutionized the field of bacterial identification by miniaturizing and standardizing conventional techniques. Combining a strip of biochemical tests and database, bacterial identification with API became simple, rapid and reliable. API includes 15 identification systems covering practically all groups of bacteria and yeast and over 600 different species making API range is the most extensive range available. With Apiweb, an internet platform database, the identification of microbes is available to everyone, at anytime and everywhere. Furthermore, Vitek2 Compact system is highly automated system provides the same day identification and antibiotic susceptibility test. The combination of automated Vitek2 Technology and the ready-to-use Vitek2 Identification cards, it provides more reliable, faster and accurate results. Both API and Vitek2 systems are brought by BioMerieux, France.

Knowing how importance these techniques for microbial identification, FASM had initiated a collaboration with Institute of Marine Biotechnology, UMT to organise a 3-day workshop and lecture that cover the theory and hands-on-experience of using API and Vitek2. This workshop was conducted on 17-19 September 2013 where more than 40 staff and post-graduate students had participated this workshop that sponsored by Medigene Sdn. Bhd.

The organiser had invited Mr. Afizul Che Nuddin from BioMerieux, Malaysia and Mr. Mohamad Faris Hashim from Medigene, Sdn. Bhd. who are Application Specialists to deliver the theory and practical regarding the microbial identification by using these systems. The workshop went smoothly and many of participants had give a suggestion to the organiser to conduct this workshop yearly in order to benefit more staff and students to join this workshop for knowledge and skills advancement.

