Edible Bird Nest Industry Conference 2014
25-26 November 2014, Putrajaya

PRELIMINARY STUDY OF ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY FOR CLEANING EDIBLE BIRD'S NEST

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Bird's nest is an edible nest created by the swiftlet. During the breeding period, the male swiftlet uses its saliva, along with other items, to create a nest for breeding. The nest is considered to be high in nutrients; especially proteins, calcium, potassium, and other minerals. These nutrients are traditionally used in the aiding of digestion, improving the immune system, or alleviating symptoms of asthma. Traditionally, bird's nest must be cleaned from all large impurities such as feathers, twigs, and mud prior to consumption. The process in which the bird's nest is cleaned is extremely time consuming and requires a lot of skill in performing. As the process is extremely expensive, there are certain individuals who will use chemicals, including chemical bleach, to clean the bird's nest. Since these chemicals are unhealthy and unethical, there is a need to find a new and faster way that can clean Bird's Nest safely. By having a collaborative effort with Royal Bird's Nest Sdn Bhd, a member of Swiftlet Eco Park Group of Companies, University of Malaya would like to embark on a new research using an ultra-high precision instrument of mechanical testing and micro-robotic handling for Bird's Nest. The unmatched sensitivity and accuracy of the invention will redefine a new standard of true quantitative investigations in the micro and nano domains of the Bird's Nest, respectively.