

UMS Faculty of Engineering in study tour of EcoOils Lahad Datu

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Engineering explored the possibility on the development of innovative, eco-friendly building materials during their study tour at the factory of EcoOils Lahad Datu Sdn Bhd.

In the push for stronger academic-industry ties, the study tour led by Faculty Dean, Prof Dr Abdul Karim Mirasa engaged in positive exchanges with company representatives looking into avenues to producing functional and cost-effective products for the market.

"We find our discussions most encouraging which ex-

plored avenues for Research and Development (R&D) with the university on potential uses in asphalt, tiles, building materials, glass manufacturing with some possible innovations which include silicon wafer and ceramic water filter."

Furthermore, he noted stronger collaboration between the university and the factory would provide clear advantages for students to enhance their knowledge and understanding from operations at the factory which produces interlocking bricks.

During the presentation by UMS on its project on uses of EcoProcessed Pozzolan (EPP), EcoOil representatives looked into the use of the IBS in actual construction and its potential as an alternative building solution. Welcoming the visiting UMS delegates was EcoOils Sdn Bhd General Manager, Mr Jayachandran.

Ecoprocessed Pozzolan (EPP) is the residue and byproduct of factory's processes through its steam boilers. However EPP has been shown to have positive

prospects in mix concrete and brick manufacturing, hence producing sustainable construction material in line with the concept 'waste to wealth'.

Participants at the study tour also gained a better understanding on the factory's operations in detail on its production process and the differentiation elements from similar competitors.

"It's always helpful to get the clearer picture and see for ourselves the measures undertaken by EcoOils to be eco-friendly and avoid disposing their spent bleaching earth after-processes to landfills," said Prof Abdul Karim.

Additionally UMS representatives were able to understand in depth the additional steps involved in production, which uses EcoMineral (final product after oil extraction from Spent Bleaching Earth) in a self-sustaining power generation system using steam for the factory's operations.

In a nutshell, the collaboration visit by UMS to Lahad Datu EcoOils Sdn Bhd has been fruitful to both parties and provides a platform for a closer relationship and improved knowledge transfer.

"The objective to reach better understanding and outline the collaborations for future efforts were truly achieved during this visit," said Prof Abdul Karim.



Prof Abdul Karim (right) presents a gift of appreciation to Jayachandran during the study tour.



EcoOils Sdn Bhd and Engineering Faculty of UMS team ready with safety attire for the plant tour.