



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY *Report* 2022



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Published By

Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Sarawak
Jalan Meranek, 94300 Kota Samarahan
Sarawak

Published Date

31 October 2023

Chief Editor

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eISBN: 978-967-0828-66-4

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Design and Visual Development by Ts Madeleine Elna Perreau



TABLE OF CONTENT

01

ORGANISATION'S PROFILE

Description	
Organisation Setup	
The Organisation's Core Values	
The Organisation's Core Business	

02

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Environmental Policy	7
Sustainable Development Goal Policy	8
Energy Management Policy	9
Bring-Your-Own-Container Policy	10
Dissemination of Environmental Policy	10
Relevancy to Current Global Status on the Environment	11
Generation of Waste	12
Wastes Treatment and Disposal Methods	13
Potential Strategies & Planning	15

03

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Potential Environmental Impacts	18
Environmental Management Plan	20

04

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Environmental Quality Standards	21
Aspects Prioritisation	22
Environmental Objectives and Targets	24
Environmental Projects and Programmes	25

05

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTATION

Green Initiatives Survey	28
Affordable Automated Smart Agriculture System (AASAS)	33
Carbon Footprint Monitoring	36
Portable Water Treatment Plant Project	38
Biological Treatment for Polluted Water	39
Establishing Memorandum of Understanding with Industry Expert	39
Research on Sewerage Treatment Plant	40
Establishing Local Fertilizer From Poultry Project	40
Aquaponic Project	42
Bamboo Garden	43
Trainer For Green Projects For Suppliers and Contractors in Sarawak	44

06

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Research on Internet of Things (IoT)	46
Research on Water Treatment	47
Monitoring of Electric Usage	48
Hydroponic Project	48
Air Quality	48
e-Reporting System of Sustainable Initiatives	49

07

RECOGNITION

Green Sustainable Campus Awards (AKLH) 2021	48
TIMES for Higher Education Awards UiTM 2021	51
10th Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award 2021/2022	52
Green Sustainable Campus Award (AKKH) 2022	53

Conclusion	54
List of Committed Writers	55
Editorial Board Members	57

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT FOR POLLUTED WATER

Water treatment is defined as any process that improves water quality to make it safer to be discharged back into the environment. One of the processes of water treatment is the coagulation process. Traditionally, chemical coagulation such as aluminium and iron coagulants are used in the water treatment process. The study was conducted by researchers from UiTM Sarawak, led by Dr. Rafidah Husen, who has identified a biological coagulation process using a low dosage of plant-based coagulant to remove high chemical oxygen demand (COD) and turbidity.

The research conducted used plant-based pineapple leaf coagulant to achieve high COD and turbidity removal. The coagulation was performed using a jar test experiment of pond water at different pH followed by different dosages of pineapple leaf coagulant. It was found that the final COD and turbidity values are lower compared with results from other studies that used high dosage coagulants. Moreover, the final pH, COD, turbidity, dissolved oxygen (DO), and total suspended solids (TSS) values of the treated pond water were below the standard limits set by the National Water Quality Standards for Malaysia (NWQSM) class IIB, which represents water bodies suitable for recreational use with body contact (DOE, 2016).

Therefore, it is expected that the newly-formulated waste utilisation of pineapple leaf coagulants can reduce the usage of chemical coagulants and can further be used for different types of water. The research was published in the Journal of Asian Scientific Research, indexed by Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).

Establishing MEMORANDUM of Understanding with Industry Expert

Another initiative by UiTM Sarawak is by inviting industry experts as research partners in water treatment. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between UiTM and GA Consortium Sdn. Bhd. Besides joint research on water treatment, the MOU also enables technical knowledge transfer from experts in GA Consortium Sdn. Bhd. to the students and staff of Diploma in Chemical Engineering.



Figure 5.12 Signing MOU between UiTM Sarawak And GA Consortium Sdn. Bhd



Figure 5.13 Sharing Session from Expert in GA Consortium Sdn. Bhd

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022

e ISBN 978-967-0828-66-4



PERPUSTAKAAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK, UiTM CAWANGAN SARAWAK

(online)