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SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN MALAYSIA
A Case Study of Alur Setar and Sungai Petani Towns

By

Azizan b Md Saad
Shazali b Mohammad Yusof

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S Y N O P S I S

Previously, most people in the less developed areas in this country did not have adequate excreta disposal systems. A survey by the World Health Organisation in 1975 reported that about 85 per cent of the rural areas in the world lack any adequate excreta disposal facility. Clearly, the situation is most serious and major national and international initiatives are required if any substantial impact is to be made on the problem in the next decades to come.

Ignoring the above situation would result in the widespread of epidemics such as typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea and many other infectious diseases.

Human excreta are the principal vehicle for the transmission and spread of a wide range of communicable diseases. These diseases start their journey from an infected individual to a new victim when the causative agent is passed in the excreta. Therefore, the collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of human excreta are the utmost importance in the protection of the health of any community.

This project is intended to highlight the readers on some of the existing sewerage systems available in Malaysia, particularly Peninsular Malaysia.

Apart from the two study areas of Alur Setar and Sungai Petani, both of them in Kedah, the sewerage systems of other places are also covered in the report. These include:

1. Pantai Sewage Purification Works, Kuala Lumpur
2. Sewerage System of ITM, Shah Alam
3. Oxidation ditch of Malaysia Glass Sheet factory, Sungai Buluh

The visits to the above places is aimed at providing a general

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

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Azizan b Md Saad

Shazali b Mohammad Yusof

CHAPTER 1

1.00

INTRODUCTION

1.10

Need for the study of the sewerage system.

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Traditionally man has relied upon the natural degradation processes of micro-organisms which are present in the environment to decompose waste materials effectively.

The discharge of solid and liquid waste to soil and water is an effective method of disposal provided that the load imposed upon the natural processes is not excessive.

The industrial revolution and rapid development of nations and the associated growth of urban communities created the problem of high volumes of wastes to be disposed off solely by the method of natural processes.

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It is therefore a necessity to study the different ways and methods of disposal of these wastes without significantly destroying the local environment and causing pollution to the natural water courses. Hence the development of effective method of sewage treatment and disposal for large communities is a necessity. More recently there has been an increasing appreciation that man made pollution is a significant national and global problem. This has led to the formation of authorities with powers to improve the qualities of water and the imposition of stricter standards for sewage treatment.