

OIL PALM SHELL RECYCLED INTO CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL



Who would have thought that oil palm shells that have always been discarded just like that could turn out to be very useful in the construction area. It can be used as a substitute for concrete.

This was explained during a Professor Public Lecture session delivered by Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) Dean, Professor Eng. Dr. Ideris Zakaria at Dewan Astaka on July 20, 2011.

The event, held for the first time by FKASA, was organised together with the Academic and International Affairs Department (JHEAA).

Response was good as it attracted more than 400 participants comprising



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undergraduates from institutes of higher learnings and students from secondary schools in Kuantan.

Dr Ideris said the objective of holding the event was to create awareness on services and expertise available in UMP.

"It is also a platform for UMP staff to share information and experience among themselves as well as with the local community," he added.

His lecture was titled, Structural and Thermal Performance of Concrete Made from Agricultural Waste Products; A Case Study on Oil Palm Shells (OPS) Concrete.

Dr Ideris said, normally OPS were used as firewood or left to rot at a designated waste dump but this could have adverse effects on the environment that was already facing some serious issues.

"Now, based on findings by the university's researchers, it was revealed that OPS mixed with a certain portion of cement and sand could produce material similar to concrete.

"On tests carried out

to compare temperatures taken inside a house made of OPS and that of normal concrete, it was found that the OPS-made home had a more conducive thermal condition," Dr Ideris said.

Student Mohamad Hamidi Haidzir, 17, of SMK Sri Mahkota who was among those who attended the lecture said he was happy to have participated in the programme.

"I learned a lot of new things from the researches conducted.

"Programmes such as this can help to motivate my friends and I to know more about science and engineering and be successful in our studies," he added.

Also present at the event were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim dan senior management.

In conjunction with the event, an exhibition that showcased a variety of research works conducted by FKASA researchers was held while the participants were given allowed to tour the faculty's laboratory.