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Brownfield Asia 2011

by Ir. Santha Kumaran a/l Enusan Krishnan,
Organising Chairman, Brownfield Asia 2011

OUR Earth is not getting any bigger but our population is. Maximising the use of every piece of land on this Earth is imperative. This excludes the hills, forests and other plantations, which are not an option for any sort of urban development. We need to preserve green fields not only to avoid global warming, but also for us to reside on. We need to maximise the use of brownfield sites to reduce dependence on green fields. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined the term “brownfield” as:

“....real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”

The Environmental Engineering Technical Division of IEM successfully conducted the 5th Brownfield International Conference from 12 to 15 July 2011. A total of 120 local as well as foreign participants took part in the event. The conference included a technical site visit to the Petronas Oil Refinery Plant in Melaka, which was an opportunity to experience the real development of brownfield land. A post-conference workshop on the “Application of Contaminated Land and Management Guidelines” was held on the final day.

Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, officiated the event while IEM President Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Keong delivered the welcoming speech.

Various international and local papers were presented. Although it would be impossible to highlight all the presented papers here, there were several inspiring and resourceful papers. Here are some of the papers that were presented:

- Datin Hajjah Hanili bt Ghazali from the Department of Environment (DOE) - Guidelines for Contaminated Land Management and Control in Malaysia
- Dr Kylie Dodd from the Environmental Resource Management (ERM) - Australian National Guidance on Health Risk Assessment and Health-Based Investigation Levels for Soils
- Dr Randy H. Adams from Villahermosa, Tabasco, México - Revitalisation of the Agua de Mina Waste Dam for Aquaculture
- Mr. Ng Hong Seng from AECOM - Latest Development on Remediation Technology for Brownfield Development

While there were many knowledgeable professionals on brownfield, the introduction of various technologies and innovations caught the attention of the participants. This contributed to the success of the 5th edition of the Brownfield Conference where a whole lot of business opportunities were simply waiting to be explored and seized. ■