

Talk on 'Stormwater Management: From Theory to Practice'

by **Engr. Balamuralithara Balakrishnan**, MIEM, P. Eng.

A talk on stormwater management by Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr Lariyah Mohd Sidek was conducted on 27 July 2009, attended by 57 participants.

The presenter started by giving comprehensive insights into the impact of urbanisation on stormwater runoff. The ultimate goal of stormwater management is to maintain the health of streams, lakes and aquatic life as well as provide opportunities for human uses of water by mitigating the effects of urban development. To achieve this goal, stormwater management strives to maintain the natural hydrologic cycle, prevent an increased risk of flooding, prevent undesirable stream erosion and protect water quality.

Several strategies that meet the goals of stormwater management have been developed to manage human activities within a watershed. These involve various combinations of management options, including stormwater management practices. Integrated planning for stormwater management helps to ensure that preventative approaches are incorporated in the management strategies.

Preventative approaches include the protection of natural areas and site design of communities to reduce stormwater runoff generation. Integrated planning also helps to identify constraints and opportunities for the use of particular stormwater management practices. A preferred strategy is selected from the management options and is evaluated against criteria such as public acceptance, cost and technical feasibility.

In Malaysia, a draft of the manual on stormwater management called MSMA Manual ("Manual Saliran Mesra Alam") was developed by JPS ("Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran"). This manual was prepared as a guideline for engineers in designing the drainage system and had been referred to by various agencies at the federal and state levels for the drainage requirements needed for any development in urban areas. The goal of this manual is to provide guidance to all regulators, planners and designers who are involved in stormwater management. It identifies a new direction for stormwater management in urban areas in Malaysia.

Engr. Assoc. Prof. Dr Lariyah also stressed that successful stormwater management requires the participation from all related agencies in planning, design, construction and operation & maintenance of the stormwater facilities. Finally,

stormwater management facilities should be able to provide adequate environmental, community and asset protection consistent with acceptable planning, design and construction requirements and achieve the principles of an ecologically sustainable development. ■



The speaker receiving a token from Chairman Engr. Balamuralithara Balakrishnan



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