



7th IEM Chemical Engineering Design Competition

by Ir. Dr Chong Chien Hwa

Ir. Dr Chong Chien Hwa is currently the Deputy Chairman in Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD).

The IEM Chemical Engineering Design Competition has been successfully conducted at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) on 22 June 2019. This year, the 7th IEM Chemical Engineering Design Competition was participated by 25 teams comprising of Chemical Engineering undergraduates from both public and private higher institutions in Malaysia. Chair for this year event, Dr Hazlina binti Husin, believes that this year competition theme is sensible, realistic and answering the current issue in Malaysia.

The theme "Monetization of Waste Plastics for Sustainable Chemical Production" is perfectly suits the no end solution for plastic waste issue. The latest statistics show that 157,299 tons of plastic waste was shipped to this country in 2018, an increase of 273 per cent compared to the previous year. This year, a number of allegedly illegal plastic waste disposal sites have been uncovered in Ipoh, Perak; Sungai Petani, Kedah; Jenjarom, Selangor – besides over 60 containers which arrived at West Port, Selangor containing plastic waste.

And worse still, more than 80% of plastic wastes end up in our landfills, rivers and on the side of the road, contributing to the massive accumulation of plastic wastage in our environment. Besides the usual education on reusing, reducing and recycling plastic products, perhaps we can take on a different approach to tackle this waste plastic issue. We believe this waste plastics issue could create opportunity for Chemical Engineers (future) and turn it into plastic waste processing business.

During the final business pitching of 8 finalist teams coming from Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Heriott Watt University Malaysia (HWUM) and Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), UMS team successfully grabbed the Champion trophy and cash prize of RM 2,000, followed by HWUM team as the first runner-up, UTP team as the second runner-up and UKM team consolation.

The prize was presented by Assoc. Prof. Ir Dr Abd Halim Shah bin Maulud, Chair of UTP Chemical Engineering Department and Dr Hazlina binti Husin.



Group photo



Chairman, Co-Chairman and Judges of 7th IEM Design Competitions