Scientist in Profile

Nur Fadhilah Idris

Nur Fadhilah Idris joined the Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) in 2008 as a research officer in the Processing and Pollution Control Unit, currently known as the Processing and Sustainability Unit under the Technology and Engineering Division. Prior to joining the MRB, she worked at the University of Malaya (UM) as a research assistant in Combinatorial Technology and Catalysis Research Centre (COMBICAT) from 2003 to 2008. She holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Applied Chemistry from UM. While working at COMBICAT, she pursued her postgraduate degree in Master of Science (MSc) in Heterogeneous Catalysis, supervised by Prof Sharifah Bee, and graduated in 2008.

As a research officer in MRB, her research focuses on the environmental management associated with the rubber industry, mainly in malodour pollution. She led internal R&D and NKEA projects related to air and odour pollution in the raw rubber processing industry and has worked closely with the Department of Environment (DOE) to address the malodour and environmental issues, and was directly involved in the development of the Odour Regulation. In 2017, she was involved with the development of Kedah Rubber City (KRC), a national project participated by MRB, led by Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA).

In 2018, she was given an opportunity by MRB to persue a graduate degree (PhD) in the field of Environmental Engineering at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia and completed it in 2022. She was supervised by Professor Richard Stuetz and her PhD research studied the improvement of odour abatement system at a dry rubber processing plant mainly by prioritising the removal of major odourants, optimisation of the wet scrubber system and additional of activated carbon bed as a secondary treatment to increase the overall performance of the odour removal.

As a result of these research activities, she has presented the outcomes at local and international conferences as well as published manuscripts for research journals and MRB publications. Her publications won Best Technical Publication for Applied Science (Conference Category), Best Non-Technical Publication and Best Technical Publication (3rd) at the MRB Innovation Award in 2017 and 2019.

During her early career at the MRB, she was also appointed as a Quality and Technical Manager/Deputy Manager as well as a Signatory of Pollution Control Laboratory, accredited to MS ISO 17025, which has now been relocated to Global Testing and Advisory Centre for Rubber (G-TAC$_R$).