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THE INCO EXHIBITION 2024



Inauguration of Inco exhibition 2024 by the Chief Guest Dr. Saranga Alahapperuma, Chairman IDB.



Inauguration - Day 2 of the Inco exhibition by the Chief Guest Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition



Inauguration of Inco exhibition Day 3 by the Chief Guest Hon Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology

The INCO - 24 premier Industrial Exhibition 2024 was held at the Sirimavo Bandaranayake Memorial Exhibition Center on 12th, 13th and 14th January 2024. This mega annual industrial exhibition and trade fair was held for the 18th successful year by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka. This iconic INCO - 24 event was heralded as the most engineering related and customer focused industrial exhibition and trade fair in the country. This event also offered unique opportunity to exhibitors to promote their product range and servicers to establish closer relationship with existing customers and gain access to latest Industrial and marketing information and also act as a networking platform for Engineers. Greater emphasis was shown by the education sector as well. Some major higher education institutes (HEI) which conduct diverse engineering related courses had showcased their skills and expert knowledge by having various innovative projects such as robotics which attracted the exhibitors at large. Some of the leading educational institutes in collaboration with leading foreign universities too had many young enthusiastic visitors looking for opportunity to become engineering professionals in the future.

The Chief Guest for the much-awaited opening ceremony was Dr. Saranga Alahapperuma, Chairman Industrial Development Board, He was escorted on arrival by the traditional dancing troop along with the President of IIESL Eng. Dr. Bhadrani Thoradeniya and the Past Presidents of the IIESL. Having welcomed by the Chairman INCO - 24, Eng. K M S B Rekogama, the Chief Guest was invited to address the gathering. In his address he emphasized that Hon. Minister Ramesh Pathirana who was scheduled to attend the INCO exhibition as the Chief Guest, was unable to attend due to exigencies of services.

Dr. Saranga Alahapperuma stated that he was humbled and privileged to associate the engineering professionals from the IIESL, who have taken a leading role in the development of Nations Engineering and Technology sector. The Chief Guest was taken to inspect the exhibition site, where he had a closer look on the diverse stalls with deferent ranges of Engineering and Technology products for exhibition.

ACCREDITATION OF THE BSC (AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING) DEGREE AT KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

The President of the IIESL, Eng. Dr. Bhadraniya Thoradeniya had a meeting with officers of the Sri Lanka Air Force to discuss their request to accept the Bachelor of Science (Aeronautical Engineering) degree conducted by the Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) as a qualification suitable for the eligibility of the membership of IIESL. A delegation headed by Air Commodore Prasanka Matino (Director, Aircraft Ground Support & Armament) and Sqn. Ldr. Tisara Jayamaha (Staff officer, Training) attended the meeting. Eng. Pushpa Jinadasa (IPP), Eng. W.D. Fonseka (PP), Prof. W.A. Wimalaweera (Chairman, Accreditation Board) and Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) M.Z.R. Sallay (Consultant, IIESL) were in attendance.

The President explained that actions have been taken by IIESL to address this issue by Initiating the required accreditation process. The IIESL has already requested the relevant information from the Registrar of KDU to be submitted to the Accreditation Board. Once the accreditation is completed, depending on the outcome, all applications received for membership from Air Force officers will be processed. The President, IIESL also stated that a number of CPD programs are conducted by the IIESL and requested the officials that Air force personnel be nominated for these CPD programs in the future. Air Commodore Matino agreed that action will be taken accordingly.



GLOBAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM (GNSS) TECHNOLOGIES

A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program on Global Navigation Satellite (GNSS) Technologies was held on 20th January 2024 at SLIDA, Colombo 07. The CPD program was attended by a total of 29 participants including Members of IIESL, Non-members and Student members of IIESL. The program included theoretical lectures within the classroom set up as well as demonstrations at open space (See below). (Continuing on pages 4)



EDITORIAL

Implementation of a Learning Culture for Sri Lankan Engineering Industries

The implementation of a learning culture in Sri Lankan engineering industries can lead to a positive transformation in their overall performance and competitiveness. It is crucial to foster a culture of continuous learning within organizations to equip employees with the necessary tools and resources to stay ahead in a constantly evolving business environment. This approach can result in several benefits, such as increased productivity, improved efficiency and enhanced innovation.

A learning culture refers to a work environment that nurtures ongoing growth and learning, encouraging employees to develop new skills, expand their knowledge and stay updated with the latest industry advancements. To establish a learning culture, organizations must invest in employee training and development programs that provide opportunities for growth and progress. These programs assist employees in acquiring new technical skills, enhancing their problem-solving abilities and developing their leadership potential.

Apart from training and mentorship, promoting a growth mindset is also critical for creating a learning culture. A growth mindset is the belief that people's abilities and intelligence can be developed through hard work and dedication. Encouraging employees to adopt a growth mindset can enhance their ability to seek out challenges, learn from their mistakes and take risks that can lead to innovation.

By prioritizing a learning culture, engineering firms can benefit in numerous ways. A learning culture enhances employee job satisfaction and retention rates as they feel valued, supported, and empowered to grow. Furthermore, an organization that values continuous learning can attract top talent that seeks opportunities for personal and professional growth. Ultimately, a learning culture can lead to better business outcomes as employees are better equipped to innovate, problem - solve, and drive the organization forward.

Therefore, for Sri Lankan engineering industries, it is crucial to create a workforce that is not only highly skilled and knowledgeable but also deeply committed to the success of their organization and competitive in today's market. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, organizations can create a dynamic and agile workforce that can thrive in today's fast-paced and ever-changing business landscape.

Eng. Dr. A.K. Handunge
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PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY FOR AWARDING DEGREES TO DIPLOMAS IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The IIESL had been taking serious efforts since December 2020 to find sustainable solutions for the predictable vulnerabilities for the long-established engineering diploma programs NDT / NDES / HNDE of Sri Lanka. As the first step Council approval was obtained to prepare IIESL proposals for the Government on policies for 'Engineering Education and Practice'. After many deliberations with experts within IIESL and outside, the 'Steering Committee to Act on Status Changes of the Diploma Programs' in the session 2020/2021 and the 'Engineering Technology Education Committee' in the session 2021/2022 produced the said proposals in the form of a booklet as a publication of the IIESL in January 2022. Eng. (Dr.) T.A.G. Gunasekara, Eng. (Dr.) Bhadrani Thoradeniya were the joint editors and authors while Eng. Tissa Senevirathne contributed as a co-author. The book was forwarded to the President, Prime Minister and many senior government officials. However, the proposals received proper attention when it was presented to the Hon. Minister of Education Dr. Susil Prmajayantha, MP in December 2022.

The discussions continued thereafter with the hon. minister and other stakeholders the representations made by the team of IIESL – Dr. T A G Gunasekera, Dr. Bhadrani Thoradeniya and Eng. Sampathbandara, resulted in everyone accepting the numerous difficulties faced by these diploma holders and the resulted frustration as well as the significant negative impact to the economy of the country as well as for the engineering industry. These discussions further paved the way for IIESL to produce a novel proposal to establish a National Technological University of Sri Lanka (NTUSL) as the interim solution to award degrees by converting traditional diploma programs NDT / NDES / HNDE which was handed over to the Hon Minister in February 2023. A copy of the proposal was submitted to the Honorable Ranil Wickremasinghe HE the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and this is directed to the Senior Addl. Secretary to the President (Strategic Affairs Division) Mrs. Chandani Wijayawardana. Despite the slow responses by the authorities, all effects are being taken to meet official for a fruitful outcome.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Continuing professional development plays a pivotal role on the development of a person engaged in any profession. The IIESL considers the importance of molding and shaping its members profiles to suit the advancing technologies as of paramount importance. Hence, a number of continuing professional development (CPD) programs are introduced for the benefit of the members. During the last quarter the IIESL was able to conduct 03 programs and more programs are in the pipeline that will be implemented in the near future.

Contractual Conflicts and Dispute Resolution

The CPD program on 'Contractual Conflicts and Dispute Resolutions' was held on 18th November at IIESL Head Office Auditorium. The Target group was Civil Engineers, Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, Technical Officers and Civil Engineering / Quantity Surveying Students. The CPD was to study how a conflict between the parties involved in a construction could be resolved through deferent means. Following areas were covered in the CPD program.

- Introduction of construction contracts and Parties.
- Coordination to be maintained among parties.
- Probable parameters in conflicts creations.
- Initial action to be taken to settle disputes / negotiation / further negotiation.
- How a conflict in construction may become a dispute / Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Mediation, Adjudication, Arbitration, Litigation.

The Resource Person, Eng. Upali Ranatunga, is a Graduate from Sheffield Hallam University of UK in Construction Management, and an intellectual in many Engineering fields. Further, he is a 'Fellow' of IIESL.

Continued from Page 2

Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Technologies

The Course Content included the following.

- Basic introduction about GNSS techniques (GNSS, World coordinate system, National coordinate system, DGNS, GNSS, RTK, Static Surveying)
- Practical training on GNSS application using comprehensive instruments.
- Introduction about GNSS receiver, Base + Rover RTK surveying with UHF and NTRIP.
- RTK Surveying with GNSS CORs network, View measured data with Google (KML)
- Engineering Surveying with GNSS RTK and practice surveying function of android Field software (Setting out, area calculation, cad, blocking out Autoline join)

Resource Persons were Mr. Nishshanka De Silva - MSc (Geoinformatics), Mr. Jeewan Suranga - MSc (Geoinformatics), Mr. S.L. Witharana - BSc (Hons) (Surveying Science in Land Management), Mr. C. Weththasinghe – BSc (Surveying Science in Land Management), Mr. M.N. Tharunika - BSc (Hons) (Surveying Science in Geographic Information Systems).

TECHNO TOUR TO RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA

The much-anticipated Techno Tour for the Session 2023/2024 was organized to visit the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL), the oldest research Institute on Rubber in the World, which is located at Dartonfield Agalawatta, The Chairman Education and Training Committee and Vice President Eng. N.A. Nandasena initiated and coordinated the visit on 16th December 2023. A total of 30 participants, including 3 non - members, 4 Student members and members of IIESL attended the visit. The Techno Tour was jointly sponsored by M/S TechnoBiz & M/S Forbsmarshall and Eng. Sudath Silva.



- Photographs:**
1. The group of visitors with the Chairman and staff of RRISL.
 2. Introductory lecture
 3. Rubber Research institute, Agalawatta and its scenic surrounding
 4. Watching the latex tapping process
 5. Providing explanations on the manufacturing process.



The days proceedings commenced with breakfast being served at the Directors bungalow, and a welcome speech given by Eng Kamalanatha Jinadasa to all participants for joining the visit. The President, IIESL thanked the effort taken by the Vice President and Chairman, Education and Training Committee, Eng. N.A. Nandasena and the Staff of IIESL in the organizing of the event. The Chairman RRISL, Mr. Lakshman Abeysekera in his address warmly welcomed the participants while thanking for their enthusiasm shown to visit RRISL. Dr. Susanta Siriwardana, the Director General of RRISL gave a brief presentation on Cropping, Tapping, Harvesting, Processing of Natural Rubber & Product manufacturing.

This Educational tour gave insight to the new machinery and equipment with the state of art technology. The group visited the research laboratories and observed some historical scientific instruments. They had a brief dialog with the scientists on adaptive research, biochemistry, physiology. They also visited the Crape Rubber manufacturing plant, and the tour concluded with country style food being served in a nature gifted environment.

INCO EXHIBITION 2024 - PICTURE GALLERY



Chief Guest Day 1, Dr. Alahapperuma with sponsors CEO, SEIRRA Cables Mr. H. Wiethunga and IIESL President & President Elect.



Chief Guest Day 2, Hon. Sajith Premadasa MP, Leader of Opposition in a conversation with stall holders



Chief Guest Day 1, on the inspection tour with the President, IIESL



Eng. P. Dayarathne (Patron, IIESL) inspecting an exhibit



The stall of the Institute of Engineering Technology, Katunayake



The stall of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa



Evaluation of Robotic Competition: (From Left) Eng. D.S. Senarath, Eng. S. Kuruppu, Eng. W D Fonseka, Prof. W A Wimalaweera



Presentation of awards sponsored by Eng. (Mrs.) Chithra Botheiu for the winners of Robotic Competition

INCO EXHIBITION 2024 - PICTURE GALLERY



Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology with Managing Director, Soft Net, Mr. Upul Chandana



Hon. Kanaka Herath visiting the stalls



Chairman, Export Development Board, Dr. Kingsly Bernard - Guest of Honour with INCO Chairman & Marketing Manager



"The Team" INCO 2024 - From left: Eng. H W S Chandrasekara, Eng. M P A Gunawardena, Eng. P. Lionel De Silva, Eng. K M S B Rekogama (Chairman, Inco 2024), President – IIESL, Eng. K K Kithsiri, Mr. P C Thilakerathne, Eng. Jagath Arawwawala, Eng. Sujeewan Kuruppu

CPD ON GNSS TECHNOLOGIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)



Participants at the CPD program on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Technologies

Seasoning Timber for Domestic and Industrial Use

Channa Wijesekara FIIESL, IEng.

Timber has been a natural resource used to manufacture furniture and in the construction industry for thousands of years. Although many substitutes are used, timber remains the all-important raw material for many purposes. Timber is strong and durable, and timber furniture has a spectacular look when finished. Timber, as a versatile building material with excellent load-bearing capacity and thermal insulation properties, is used to construct structural frameworks, cladding flooring and scaffolding

For all these purposes, timber sourced from large trees as logs has to be cut and seasoned to achieve the required strength and durability. Seasoning means drying freshly cut timber to remove moisture from the walls of the wood cells. Seasoning or drying can be done using many different methods. In this article, the writer will discuss the considerations for determining the degree to which wood should be dried for use in various industries.

The Basic Considerations are,

1. The Relationship between Temperature in the atmosphere and Relative Humidity.
2. Fiber Saturation Point (FSP) of Wood.
3. Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) of Wood.
4. The relationship between Equilibrium Moisture Content and Relative Humidity in Wood.
5. Guidelines on the weather conditions in different districts of Sri Lanka and the levels of wood drying required in relation to that.

1. The Relationship Between Temperature in the Atmosphere and Relative Humidity.

The air around us contains water vapor. The ratio between the amount of moisture in a constant volume of air at a given temperature and the maximum amount of water that can be present in that volume at that time is called Relative Humidity. The relative humidity of the air is a factor in absorbing water

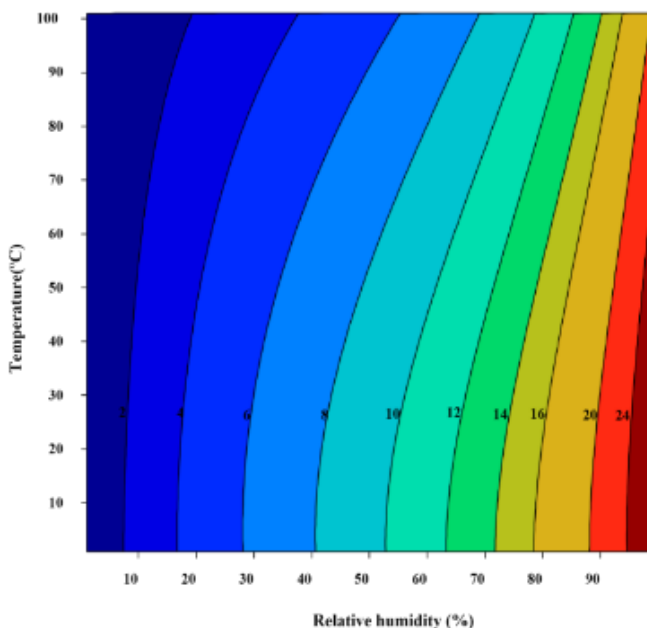
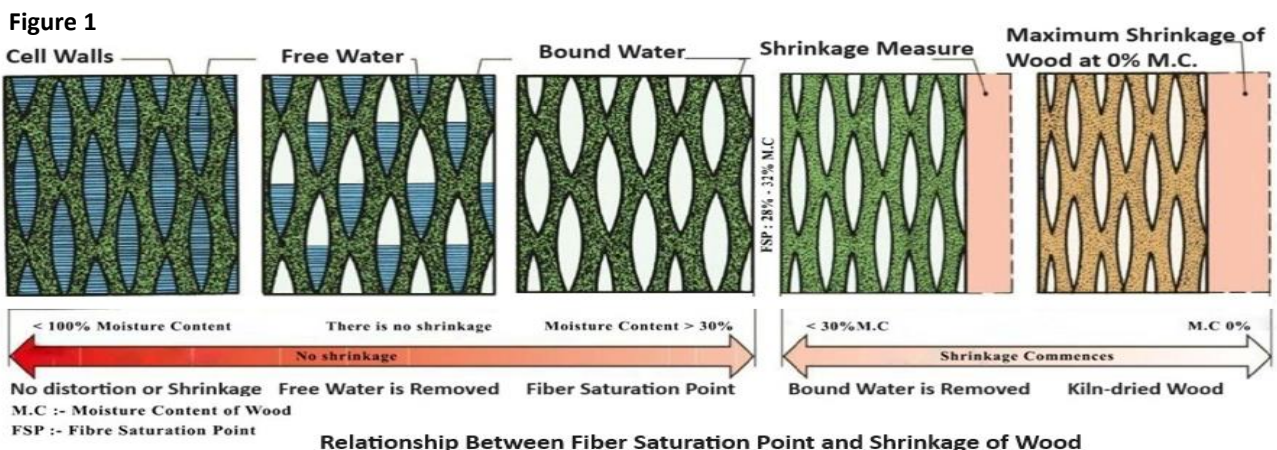


Figure 2

The values of equilibrium moisture content of wood in relation to changes in atmospheric temperature and Relative Humidity.
 Source: Wood Handbook published by the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Product Library, 1999

from wood. When the temperature of wood is increased, the relative humidity reduces, thereby increasing the potential of drying wood.

2. Fiber Saturation Point (FSP) of Wood.

Due to the high moisture content of lumber, sawn from recently felled trees, lumber is not directly used in manufacturing processes. If planks with this high moisture content are used in the production of furniture, the parts of the furniture will tend to sag, shrink, change in dimensions, deform, have defects in the finish, and have weaknesses in the joints.

Moisture is contained in the cavities and walls of wood cells. The moisture in the cavities of wood cells is identified as 'free water,' and the moisture in the walls of wood cells is identified as "bound water." During wood drying, the water inside the cell cavities, "free water," commences to move away at the beginning

The percentage of moisture that occurs when the water in the cell cavities is completely removed, is identified as the Fiber Saturation Point (FSP). Up to this FSP number, there is no shrinkage or movement of wood during drying.

It is considered that this FSP value can vary from 28% to 32% in different wood species. When wood is dried to a value below

Table 1

	District Metrological Station	Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	Trincomalee	2015	74	79	80	80	76	72	67	71	NA	85	90	85
2	Trincomalee	2020	78	74	75	NA	NA	70	73	71	73	74	88	89
3	Puttalam	2015	83	84	80	83	84	80	79	81	82	86	89	89
4	Puttalam	2020	82	77	78	NA	NA	NA	79	80	82	NA	NA	NA
5	Katugastota	2015	80	82	79	86	85	83	81	82	86	89	89	87
6	Katugastota	2020	79	76	75	81	86	83	86	84	87	85	87	87
7	Colombo	2015	76	78	80	81	82	84	80	81	86	85	86	83
8	Colombo	2020	74	71	76	79	82	80	82	80	85	81	82	80
9	Nuwara Eliya	2015	83	81	71	86	87	85	86	87	89	91	91	91
10	Nuwara Eliya	2020	73	78	63	78	88	84	87	87	92	85	88	87
11	Ratnapura	2015	81	83	83	87	88	88	84	86	90	90	90	88
12	Ratnapura	2020	81	77	79	NA	NA	88	88	84	90	77	78	78
13	Galle	2015	83	83	80	82	85	83	85	84	86	86	85	84
14	Galle	2020	80	76	77	83	NA	85	87	87	89	87	NA	85
15	Hambantota	2015	80	79	80	83	86	83	84	86	88	86	86	86
16	Hambantota	2020	80	79	79	81	84	81	84	85	87	83	82	82
Mean Relative Humidity (%) in Different Districts of Sri Lanka														
Source : - Metrological Department of Sri Lanka														

the fiber saturation point, shrinkage and dimensional changes begin as the moisture within the cell walls of the wood begins to escape. Therefore, the wood should be dried in kilns where the temperature and relative humidity can be well controlled.

3. Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) of Wood.

Wood is a hygroscopic material. In other words, when the relative humidity of air increases, the wood tends to absorb moisture from the air in comparison to it and reaches a state of equilibrium with the atmosphere. Also, when the relative humidity decreases, the water in the wood is released into the air, and the moisture content of the wood reaches again in equilibrium with the atmosphere. That means the equilibrium moisture content percentage of wood increases when the relative humidity of the surrounding atmosphere increases. Also, when the relative humidity of the air decreases, the equilibrium moisture content of wood will decrease. Suppose you know the relative humidity value of the air. In that case, you can get an idea of the equilibrium moisture content percentage of the corresponding wood by looking at Figure 2 and Table 1

4. Guidelines on the weather conditions in different districts of Sri Lanka and related levels of wood dryness required.

Table 1 shows the relative humidity levels throughout the year in various districts of Sri Lanka, obtained with the courtesy of the Department of Meteorology. Accordingly, the relative humidity level of Nuwara Eliya district, which has a colder climate, is between 71% - 91%. Also, the relative humidity level of Puttalam district, which has a more arid climate, is between 77% and 89%.

When comparing the data regarding the relationship between the equilibrium moisture content of wood and relative humidity, taken from the chart (Table 2) prepared by the Agriculture Department of USA with that of the data regarding the relative humidity levels of different districts of Sri Lanka, published by the Meteorological Department, we can come to following conclusions. The wooden planks required to make furniture to be kept indoors at Nuwara Eliya, where heating is

not applied, should be dried up to 12.6% moisture content. Here we assume that relative humidity at Nuwara Eliya varies from 63 % to 91%.

Table 2

Temp.		Moisture content of wood in equilibrium with stated temperature and relative humidity																		
		Relative Humidity (%)																		
°C	°F	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95
-1.1	30	1.4	2.6	3.7	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.4	11.3	12.4	13.5	14.9	16.5	18.5	21.0	24.3
4.4	40	1.4	2.6	3.7	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.4	11.3	12.3	13.5	14.9	16.5	18.5	21.0	24.3
10.0	50	1.4	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.3	11.2	12.3	13.4	14.8	16.4	18.4	20.9	24.3
15.6	60	1.3	2.5	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.2	7.0	7.8	8.6	9.4	10.2	11.1	12.1	13.3	14.6	16.2	18.2	20.7	24.1
21.1	70	1.3	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.4	6.2	6.9	7.7	8.5	9.2	10.1	11.0	12.0	13.1	14.4	16.0	17.9	20.5	23.9
26.7	80	1.3	2.4	3.5	4.4	5.3	6.1	6.8	7.6	8.3	9.1	9.9	10.8	11.7	12.9	14.2	15.7	17.7	20.2	23.6
32.2	90	1.2	2.3	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.9	6.7	7.4	8.1	8.9	9.7	10.5	11.5	12.6	13.9	15.4	17.3	19.8	23.3
37.8	100	1.2	2.3	3.3	4.2	5.0	5.8	6.5	7.2	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.3	11.2	12.3	13.6	15.1	17.0	19.5	22.9

Source: Wood Handbook published by the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Product Laboratory, 1999

Following the same principle, the wooden planks required to make furniture were to be kept indoors at a house in Puttalam and dried in between 12.6% to 14.4% moisture content. When preparing specifications of the moisture content to which the wood should be dried, it is important to consider the temperature and relative humidity levels at the location where the items are stored and the environmental factors of the location. Also, special consideration should be given to the moisture content and finish of the wood while preparing the specifications for the production of wooden products. That is,

- a) Whether a sealer with sufficient viscosity is used on the wood surfaces to close the fine pores on the natural surface of the wood.
- b) Is the sealer coating sufficiently applied to the extremely strong transverse faces of the wood?

Channa Wijesekara –FIIESL, IEng.

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- Chairman – Leema Interiors (Pvt) Ltd
- Chairman – Nano Medix (Pvt) Ltd
- Chairman – Advisory Committee on Wood Industry - Ministry of Industries
- President – Wood Based Industrialists Association, Sri Lanka



LATEX HARVESTING OF RUBBER

Dr. T U Kelum Silva

Principal Research Officer, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg.) is a well-known species widely distributed over the world, away from its center of origin. In commercial plantations, rubber trees are grown usually as clones, after budding on seedling rootstocks. Rubber is the second most important plantation crop in Sri Lanka in terms of export earnings and employment generation. Growing natural rubber is not only beneficial from the industrial point of view, but also as a crop providing the important benefit to the environment during past decades.

According to the recommendations of Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL), rubber trees should be tapped after reaching to a certain level which is called 'tappable girth'. Girth of the tree should be measured at 48" height either from ground level or from the highest point of the grafted-union. This girth should be 20" (50 cm) or more. However, the entire plantation should have 70% or more trees to start tapping in a particular plantation. Then the trees in tappable girth should be marked using a template called 'stencil'. This will help the tapper to maintain the correct angle and the length of the cut.

Basically, a tree is divided in to two equal halves and one half will be utilized at least six years for tapping latex. After finishing the first half, the opposite half will be tapped for another six years. However, the cambium layer inside the bark should not be damaged in order to regenerate the tapped bark. After 12 years, the renewed bark can be harvested again for another 12 years. Therefore, the tapping cycle of each plantation should be 24 years with half spiral alternate daily (S/2 d2) tapping system. Imposing low frequency harvesting, i.e. half spiral once in three days (S/2 d3) or once in four days (S/2 d4) the tapping cycle can be extended further.

The tapping must be done with systematic manner, and it requires a greater level of skill minimizing the stress for rubber trees. Tapping should be done early in the morning and collection should be done within 2 to 4 hours after tapping. The shaving thickness of the bark should be 0.125 cm per tapping. The task of the tapper may vary depending on the tapping system, productivity level and field conditions. However, the normal tapping task will be 250 – 350 trees. Fixing a rain guard above the tapping cut can minimize the interference of rain and help to increase production and productivity, also it can help to prevent the tapping cut from some panel diseases.

From Page 1...

THE INCO EXHIBITION 2024

The chief guest of the second day, Hon Sajith Premadasa MP, Leader of Opposition, was welcomed by the President of IIESL Eng. Dr. Bhadrani Thoradeniya and Past Presidents along with Council Members of the Institution. The Chief Guest Hon Sajith Premadasa was taken around to witness the exhibition site, he was extremely happy to see foreign and local suppliers with high caliber products in display. He discussed with the renewable energy suppliers' the way forward for the countries power generation. He congratulated the President and the Members of IIESL for organizing an exhibition and a fair of such a magnitude which would benefit the stakeholders as well as contribute to the growth of the country's economy.

The chief guest of the third day was, Hon Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology. He too was welcomed by the President IIESL Eng. Dr. Bhadrani Thoradeniya upon his arrival. He emphasized that as the Minister of Technology he seeks innovative methods of uplifting the technology in Sri Lanka based on manufacturing & export economy, through the process of digitalization. He further stated that SME sector that forms part of the backbone of export and it provides the technology & engineering based industrial sector to seek local & foreign markets. He thanked the President of IIESL and the organizing committee members for their untiring effort to make this year's INCO - 24 a reality.

APPRECIATIONS

Eng. K.U.S. Amarasekara, FIESL

Eng KUS Amarasekara was born on 19th September 1935. He had his basic Education at St. Thomas' Collage, Mount Lavinia. After teaching at St. Thomas' College Matara from 1957 to 1961, he joined the Institute of Practical Technology, Katubedde (IPTK) and obtained his Junior Technical Officer Qualification in Civil Engineering in 1964. He passed the graduateship from the Institute of Structural Engineers, London in 1967 and the AMIStructE examination in 1969. Eng. Amarasekara joined the Oruwala Steel Corporation as a Construction Superintendent and served there from 1964 to 1965. Thereafter he joined the academic staff of Institute of Practical Technology Katubedda and continued his service until his retirement from the University of Moratuwa in 1995.

His had a very clear vision for the NDT program and being single for lifetime he had total commitment to teaching the subject 'Structures'. He served the NDT program over 55 years. He was a teacher who was much loved and respected by his students. In 2015 on his 80th birthday, as a testimony of their deep gratitude, the past students of him created two Best Student Awards for ITUM in his name. Eng. Amarasekera contributed immensely to the Engineering and Technology Education by serving as a Visiting Lecturer for the Faculty of Architecture and Institute of Technology of University of Moratuwa and Aquinas College Colombo and in many other higher education institutions. He has rendered valuable service to the IIESL as a resource person. He was a fellow member of IIESL. Eng. Amarasekera passed away on the 24th December 2023.

Eng. T.B. Jayalal, MIIESL

Eng. T. B. Jayalal obtained National Diploma in Technology (Civil Engineering) from the University of Moratuwa in 1987. He commenced his engineering career in the State Engineering Corporation as a Construction Superintendent. Subsequently, he took up an overseas assignment in Male, Maldives, by joining Taisei Corporation of Japan which is one of the largest construction companies in Japan having construction sites in many countries in South Asia. Eng. T. B. Jayalath served as a Site Engineer in Male, Maldives Project, which included many heavy construction work such as 'sea wall construction' and 'harbor dredging project', 'roof top water proofing project for Male telecommunication building'. On his return he re-joined the State Engineering Corporation and worked as a Resident Agent. He became a Member of the IIESL in the year 2004. He was conferred Graduateship of the City and Guilds (London) Institute in 2010.

Eng. T B Jayalal passed away on 17th November 2023.

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