

**PERFORMANCE OF SOFT CLAY STABILIZED
WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF PALM OIL
FUEL ASH AND GYPSUM**

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SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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ABSTRAK

Pertumbuhan penduduk di seluruh dunia memerlukan lebih banyak cara hidup, penginapan dan makanan, yang membawa kepada pergerakan orang ke garis pantai atau kawasan tanah lemah yang tidak stabil. Malaysia sebagai salah satu pengeluar utama minyak sawit dikehendaki menghasilkan bekalan yang mencukupi untuk memenuhi permintaan global minyak sawit dan mengekalkan pendapatan negara kasarnya. Walau bagaimanapun, penjanaan kira-kira 5 juta tan sisa abu bahan api minyak sawit setiap tahun mempunyai kesan alam sekitar yang berbahaya. Untuk menangani kedua-dua isu, jurutera menyesuaikan kitar semula sisa POFA untuk menstabilkan dan mempertingkatkan pelbagai sifat geoteknik tanah lemah liat, kaolin sebagai contoh. Kajian ini memfokuskan kepada kesan campuran POFA dan gabungan POFA-gipsum terhadap prestasi kaolin di mana gipsum adalah pengaktif pozzolan. Menggunakan POFA sebagai agen penstabil mengurangkan isu alam sekitar dan kos tapak pelupusan sisa serta meningkatkan sifat tanah liat lembut. Mencapai matlamat teknologi hijau Malaysia memerlukan kaedah alternatif untuk mengimbangi pertumbuhan ekonomi dan keistimewaan alam sekitar. Penyelidikan ini bercadang untuk menyiasat peranan POFA dan gipsum dalam meningkatkan sifat tanah liat kaolin dari segi graviti tentu, keplastikan, parameter pemedatan, kebolehtelapan, mampatan, dan kekuatan ricih dengan tempoh pengawetan. Kaolin S300 digunakan sebagai sampel tanah liat kawalan, POFA dan gipsum sebagai agen penstabil. Nisbah gipsum optimum ialah (4% dan 6%) berdasarkan literatur sebelumnya, dicampur sebagai pengikat dengan pelbagai peratusan POFA (0,5,10, dan 15). Keputusan sampel yang dirawat menunjukkan penurunan jelas graviti tentu dengan penambahan POFA-Gypsum, pengurangan indeks keplastikan, perubahan parameter ciri pemedatan di mana kandungan air optimum meningkat dengan pengurangan ketumpatan kering maksimum, variasi kebolehtelapan dan peningkatan mampatan dan ricih. kekuatan dengan tempoh pengawetan dan jumlah aditif. Secara keseluruhannya, campuran POFA, gipsum dan POFA-gipsum meningkatkan sifat geoteknik tanah liat yang dirawat.

ABSTRACT

The worldwide population growth requires more means of life, accommodation, and food, which leads to people's motion to the coastline or unstable weak soil areas. Malaysia as one of the main producers of palm oil is required to produce enough supplies to meet the palm oil global demand and maintain its gross national income. However, the generation of about 5 million tons annually of palm oil fuel ash waste have a harmful environmental impact. To tackle both issues, engineers adapted POFA waste upcycling to stabilize and enhance various geotechnical properties of clayey weak soil, kaolin as an example. This study is focusing on the effect of POFA and combined POFA-gypsum mixture on the performance of kaolin where gypsum is a pozzolan activator. Utilizing POFA as a stabilizing agent reduces environmental issues and waste landfill costs and enhances soft clays properties. Achieving Malaysian green technology goals requires an alternative method to balance economic growth and environmental privilege. This research proposes to investigate POFA and gypsum's role in improving kaolin clay properties in terms of specific gravity, plasticity, compaction parameters, permeability, compressive, and shear strength with the curing period. Kaolin S300 is used as a control clay sample, POFA and gypsum as stabilizing agents. The optimum gypsum ratio is (4% and 6%) based on the previous literature, mixed as a binder with various POFA percentages (0,5,10, and 15). The results of treated samples show a clear drop of specific gravity with POFA-Gypsum addition, reduction of plasticity index, change of compaction characteristics parameters where optimum water content increased with a reduction in maximum dry density, variation in permeability and enhancement of compressive and shear strength with curing period and additives amount. Overall, POFA, gypsum and POFA-gypsum mixture enhanced the geotechnical properties of treated clay.

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