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Research Opportunities in Rubber Glove Industry in Malaysia

Presented by:
Dr. Eng Aik Hwee

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Abstract

The Malaysian export value of rubber products in 2019 was RM23.3 billion, of which RM17.3 billion was contributed by medical rubber gloves. For 2020, the export value may exceed RM30 billion due to the increase in demand to handle rising Covid 19 cases globally. Despite this, the research interest in rubber gloves among the researchers in the local universities is low. This could be due to the lack of understanding on the research areas that are relevant to the product manufacturer and the user. The purpose of this seminar is to provide this relevant information explicitly so as to promote the interest among the local research. Although the scope of research is very wide, covering areas such as chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, Industry 4.0, environment, the focus of this seminar will be on the areas related to chemistry, particularly polymer and materials. A brief description on typical glove manufacturing processes will also be presented.

Speaker Biography

Eng Aik Hwee obtained his doctorate in Functional Materials Engineering from Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology in 1994. He has more than 30 years of experience in latex, rubber, and latex products research. He was instrumental in commercialising several medical gloves where he was the R&D technical leader of a glove company. He is a fellow member of Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM) and a member of several technical committees. He regularly conducts technical training and educational seminars on medical rubber gloves and the related subjects locally as well as overseas.