SUBSURFACE FLOW AND FREE WATER SURFACE FLOW CONSTRUCTED WETLAND WITH MAGNETIC FIELD FOR LEACHATE TREATMENT

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To my mother, father, my lovely sisters Angah, Obi, Gina, Ida, Arfah and Adik

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ABSTRACT

This study conducted using two-stage lab-scale Subsurface Flow (SSF) and Free Water Surface (FWS) constructed wetland under influence of magnetic field to treating the leachate. The leachate samples were pre-treated with magnet circulation with strength 0.55T. The constructed wetlands were planted with Limnocharis flava (yellow bur-head) and Eichhornia crassipes (water hyacinth). The performance of the system determined by suspended solid, nutrient (ammonia and phosphate), heavy metal (Iron and Manganese) removals and uptake by root and leaves of constructed wetland plants. From the analysis, planted system shows higher removal compared to unplanted system. The result shows great removal efficiency with 98.7% NH₃-N, 90.2% PO₄³⁻, 98.7% Fe, 92.5% Mn and 94.3% SS removal. At the end of study, the plants harvested and analyzed for heavy metals uptake by plants. The results showed that Fe uptake on leaves greater than on roots while Mn uptake on roots is greater than in leaves. For Limnocharis flava for example, 54% Fe uptake by leaves while 44% uptake by roots and Mn uptake by roots was 51% while 34% by leaves. This study concludes that SSF-FWS constructed wetland with magnetic field can improve the leachate quality.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan menggunakan dua peringkat tanah bencah buatan berskala makmal iaitu tanah bencah aliran subpermukaan dan aliran permukaan bebas di bawah pengaruh medan magnet bagi mengolah air larut resap. Sampel air larut resap diolah dengan aliran pengeliligan magnet berkekuatan 0.55 Tesla. Tanah bencah ditanam dengan (jinjir) dan Eichhornia crassipes (keladi bunting). Keberkesanan sistem olahan diperoleh daripada pengurangan kepekatan pepejal terampai, nutrien (ammonia dan fosfat) dan metal (besi dan mangan) serta pengambilan oleh daun dan akar tumbuhan tanah bencah. Daripada analisis, system yang mempunyai tumbuhan menunjukkan peratus penyingkiran yang lebih tinggi berbanding sistem yang tiada tumbuhan (kawalan). Hasil ujikaji menunjukkan peratus penyingkiran mencapai sehingga 98.7% bagi ammonia, 90.2% bagi fosfat, 98.7% bagi besi, 92.5% bagi mangan dan 98.7% bagi pepejal terampai. Di penghujung tempoh ujikaji, tumbuhan-tumbuhan dalam sistem tanah bencah dituai dan dikeluarkan bagi menganalis kandungan logam berat yang diambil oleh tisu tumbuhan. Keputusannya, lebih banyak kandungan besi yang diambil oleh daun tumbuhan manakala kandungan mangan lebih banyak di dalam akar. Sebagai contoh, bagi Limnocharis flava, 54% besi yang diambil oleh daun manakala 44% yang diambil oleh akar dan 51% mangan yang diambil oleh akar manakala 34% yang diambil oleh daun. Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa gabungan tanah bencah aliran subpermukaan dan aliran permukaan bebas dengan pengaruh medan magnet berpotensi bagi meningkatkan kualiti air larut resap.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

BOD	-	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
COD	-	Chemical Oxygen Demand
C/Co	-	Present concentration over initial concentration
Fe	-	Iron
FWS	-	Free water surface flow
k	-	Removal rate constant
mg/L	-	milligram per liter
Mn	-	Manganese
NH ₃ -N	-	Ammonia Nitrogen
NO ₃ -N	-	Nitrate Nitrogen
PO_4^{3-}	-	Orthophosphate
Q	-	Flowrate
r^2	-	Correlation coefficient
SS	-	Suspended Solid
SSF	-	Subsurface flow
t	-	time
Т	-	Tesla

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Over the years, industrialization and urbanization with the high growth rate has causes several environmental problem all over the world. Nowadays, solid waste management and wastewater treatment are most important problems that we are facing. Malaysia, like most of the developing countries, is facing an increase of the generation of waste and of accompanying problems with the disposal of this waste. The amount of solid wastes produced around the world is increasing at high rates. Landfill is one of the most widely employed methods for the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW). Up to 95% total MSW collected worldwide is disposed of in landfills (El-Fadil *et al*, 1997). However the landfill causes generation of leachate. Landfill leachates will cause environmental problems without proper handling. Increase in landfill leachate creates challenges for cost effective treatment methods to process wastewater.

In recent years, natural treatment systems, including wetlands have grown in popularity for wastewater treatment since the early 1980s (Reed *et al.*, 1995). Constructed wetland is a most promising method to treating landfill leahate. The potential to expand the use of constructed wetlands to the treatment of landfill leachates is relevant to today context because it seem to be environmental sustainable for the treatments of many constituent and cost savings. At present, there are several constructed wetland facilities in operation around the world. Constructed wetlands are preferred because they have more engineered systems and they are easier to control.

Magnetic treatment attracts a special attention due to its safety, purity, simplicity and low operating costs. There are only few studies that use magnetic field for wastewater treatment processes, and in most of them, magnetic field is used only for separation of solids or attached microorganisms from effluent. The magnetic field tended to increase the bacterial activity and able to detoxify toxic compounds (Yavus and Celebi, 2000). It also tended to increase sedimentation of suspended solid in wastewater (Johan, 2003). Since lack of studies of magnetic field potential in wastewater treatment, this study will investigate the performance of magnetic field in leachate treatment with combination of constructed wetlands system Subsurface Flow (SSF) and Free Water Surface (FWS).

1.2 Problem Background

Landfill leachate is wastewater emanated from sanitary landfills treating a variety of municipal and industrial solid wastes. Due to anaerobic conditions and long retention time prevailing in sanitary landfills, landfill leachate normally contains high concentrations of organic matters, nutrients, pathogens and heavy metals which, if not properly collected and treated, can cause serious pollution to nearby surface and groundwater sources. Organic matter in leachate can cause decomposition by microorganisms and can cause oxygen depletion in surface water bodies. The presence of heavy metals such as mercury, iron, manganese and copper at high concentrations in landfill leachate usually causes toxic effects to microbes, making it difficult to be treated biologically. Landfill leachate may contaminate not only surface water and groundwater supplies (Tatsi and Zouboulis, 2002) but may also cause marine water pollution and trans-boundary contamination (Al-Muzaini *et al.*, 1995).

Leachate treatment has become an important issue due to the contamination of water resources. There are various options to treat landfill leachates. The identification of the preferred option in specific circumstance is a function of the cost; both operating and capital cost and the limitation impose on the quality and quantity of discharge. The potential methods for the management of landfill leachates are mainly recirculation of leachate through the landfill, physical-chemical treatment, membrane filtration and reverse osmosis, anaerobic and aerobic biological treatment and constructed wetlands (Kappelmeyer, 2005).

Locally, many studies have been conducted for leachate treatment using constructed wetlands (Aeslina, 2003, Lee, 2003, Thien, 2006). Nevertheless, this technology is less utilized in Malaysia. Field and laboratory studies that have been conducting using wetland systems to treat leachate show variable results (Surface *et al.*, 1993; Mulamoottil *et al.*, 1998, Liehr *et al.*, 2000 and Cossu *et al*, 2001). Inconsistent results can be attributed to the variable nature of the leachate and the lack of universally accepted design standards for wetland treatment systems.

1.3 Objective

In this study, the application of constructed wetland to treating landfill leachate is applying under influence of magnetic field effect. The objectives of this study are:

- To investigate a performance of SSF-FWS constructed wetland under influence of magnetic field;
- (ii) To examine the effect of SSF and FWS plant on leachate quality for suspended solid (SS), nutrient (NH₃-N, NO₃-N and PO₄³⁻) and heavy metal (Fe and Mn) removal and;
- (iii) To examine the amount of heavy metal uptake by root and leaves of the SSF and FWS plant.

1.4 Scopes of Study

The scopes of this study are includes: set-up two stage constructed wetland (SSF-FWS) to treating landfill leachate under influence of magnetic field. The experiments are carried out in the Environmental Laboratory, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. Leachate sample is taken from Pasir Gudang Sanitary Landfill. The plants use in this study are *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth) as floating plant for FWS wetland and *Limnocharis flava* (yellow bur-head) as plant for SSF wetland. Six set of permanent magnet used in this study with magnetic strength of 0.55 T. The performance of magnetic field in constructed wetland evaluates using water quality parameter suspended solid (SS), ammonia nitrogen (NH₃-N), nitrate nitrogen (NO₃-N) and orthophosphate (PO₄³⁻) and heavy metals (iron, Fe and manganese, Mn) removal. The heavy metal uptake by plants also investigate by analyze the plant roots and leaves.

1.5 Significant of the study

The study is conducted to evaluate the performance of magnetic field in combined constructed wetland to treating landfill leachate. It also an environmental friendly approach. Leachate poses a number of environmental problems. This is due to variable types of waste and its composition. Leachate can contain high concentration of organic matters, nutrients and heavy metals. In the recent years the interest is more on natural system treatment. In this way, constructed wetlands represent a viable choice, offering extremely positive characteristics for treatment of the landfill leachate, as a good removal of heavy metals; great capacity of nitrifyingdenitrifying, with consequent lowering of high concentrations of ammonia typical of landfill leachate; sensible reduction of the volume of the leachate, due to high evapotranspiration bring by plants, and consequently sensible reduction of the costs of an eventual further treatment of the leachate. According to Eckhardt *et al.*, (1999), combination of constructed wetland (FWS and SSF) has potential to increase removal of pollutant from landfill leachate. It is shows high removal of BOD, phosphorus and heavy metals. Thus, the study of combined constructed wetland investigated because it has not been discovered yet in Malaysia.

Magnetic field proven has potential in wastewater treatment. Although, magnetic technology uses is still new in Malaysia. According studied by Johan, (2003) higher magnetic strength will enhance the settling of suspended particles and reduction of SS, BOD₅, NH₃-N and COD concentration in wastewater. Magnetic field can affect the equilibrium and stabilization of suspended particles to settle after aggregation process. Therefore, the carry out study on combination of constructed wetland and magnetic field will be the promising method to treat the leachate with proper treatment and low cost.

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