

AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR UNIVERSITY BUILDING'S ENERGY
EFFICIENCY INDEX USING CLUSTER APPROACH

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*Specially dedicated to my beloved family,
especially to
my parent, Abu bakar Ali & Norhayati Abu Seman,
my lovely husband, Mohamad Nor Hafiz Mahmood,
my son, Mohamad Zhariff Hakimi,
my supervisor, PM Dr Mohammad Yusri Hassan,
and all my dearest friends
who encouraged, helped, guided, and inspired me
throughout my journey of education*

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ABSTRACT

Energy consumption in commercial buildings is a main concern due to the increasing trend in energy consumption globally. For this reason, energy efficiency in buildings has now become an important subject of energy policies at all levels. Many methods have been proposed to provide an effective way for regularly monitoring the performance of energy consumption as well as to reduce energy usage. Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) is one of the energy consumption indicators that is widely used in the building sector for measuring energy performance. This index is generally measured based on the energy used per unit of building floor area. A low building EEI indicates a large energy saving potential for the building. The current method of determining EEI based on the floor area is not able to identify the optimum level of energy usage since it does not consider the number of occupants and effective time usage in the energy performance evaluation. This thesis proposes a new mathematical algorithm for the determination of a building's EEI to accurately identify the energy performance of the building. Unlike the existing method for determining EEI, the proposed algorithm tracks the building performance by clustering the building according to room activities. The proposed algorithm is incorporated with a shifting method, retrofitting strategy and human behavioural practice to justify the parameters involved in the EEI configuration. A case study was carried out using a university building and results show that two elements with significant influence on EEI performance are the number of occupants in the room and operation hours. The usage of rooms with an appropriate number of occupants decreased the EEI to 52.66% averagely. In addition, by considering the effective time of load usage, the reduction of EEI occurred up to 33.3%. The proposed algorithm does not only provide an effective energy performance index, but is also able to track the optimum level of energy usage.

ABSTRAK

Penggunaan tenaga di bangunan-bangunan komersial telah menjadi tumpuan utama berikutan peningkatan pola dalam penggunaan tenaga di seluruh dunia. Oleh itu, kecekapan tenaga di dalam bangunan kini di ketengahkan di dalam polisi tenaga di semua peringkat. Pelbagai kaedah telah dicadangkan bagi menyediakan cara-cara yang berkesan untuk sentiasa memantau prestasi penggunaan tenaga dan juga untuk mengurangkan penggunaan tenaga. Indeks Kecekapan Tenaga (EEI) adalah salah satu peranti penggunaan tenaga yang diguna secara meluas dalam sektor bangunan untuk mengukur prestasi tenaga. Indeks ini umumnya diukur berdasarkan tenaga yang digunakan bagi setiap unit keluasan lantai bangunan. Bacaan EEI bangunan yang rendah menunjukkan potensi penjimatan tenaga yang tinggi untuk bangunan. Kaedah terkini dalam menentukan EEI berdasarkan keluasan lantai tidak dapat mengenal pasti tahap optimum penggunaan tenaga kerana ia tidak mengambil kira bilangan penghuni dan juga penggunaan masa yang berkesan dalam penilaian prestasi tenaga. Tesis ini mencadangkan satu algoritma matematik yang baru bagi penentuan EEI sesebuah bangunan untuk mengenal pasti dengan tepat prestasi tenaga bangunan. Tidak seperti EEI yang sedia ada, kaedah EEI yang dicadangkan untuk menjejaki prestasi bangunan adalah dengan menganalisis kelompok bangunan mengikut aktiviti bilik. Algoritma yang dicadangkan digabungkan dengan kaedah peralihan, strategi penambahbaikan dan amalan tingkah laku manusia untuk menjustifikasi parameter yang terlibat dalam konfigurasi EEI. Satu kajian kes telah dijalankan ke atas bangunan universiti dan keputusan menunjukkan bahawa dua elemen yang mempunyai pengaruh yang besar ke atas prestasi EEI ialah bilangan penghuni di dalam bilik dan waktu operasi. Penggunaan bilik-bilik dengan jumlah penghuni yang sesuai mengurangkan EEI kepada 52.66% secara purata. Di samping itu, dengan mempertimbangkan masa yang efektif penggunaan beban, pengurangan EEI berlaku sehingga 33.3%. Algoritma yang dicadangkan bukan sahaja memberi indeks prestasi tenaga yang berkesan tetapi juga dapat mengesan tahap yang mengoptimumkan penggunaan tenaga.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	-	Gross floor area
E	-	Energy consumption
O	-	Number of occupant
ΔP	-	Changes in power consumption
Δt	-	Effective time of load usage

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AB	-	Actual building
BEI	-	Building Energy Index
CEI	-	Climate Energy Index
CBECS	-	Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey
DOE	-	Department of Energy
DSM	-	Demand Side Management
EC	-	Energy Commission
ECI	-	Energy Cost Index
EEI	-	Energy Efficiency Index
EPI	-	Energy Performance Index
EUI	-	Energy Utilization Index
FKE	-	Fakulti Kejuruteraan Elektrik
GHG	-	Greenhouse gas
hp	-	Horse power
HVAC	-	Heating, Ventilation and Air conditioning
IPTA	-	Institute Pengajian Tinggi Awam
IT	-	Information technology
KPI	-	Key Performance Indicator
LEO	-	Low Energy Office
LCEA	-	Life Cycle Energy Analysis
MELs	-	Miscellaneous electrical loads
MOE	-	Malaysian Ministry of Education
MOHE	-	Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education
MW	-	Mega Watt
RB	-	Reference building
ROI	-	Return on investment

TNB	-	Tenaga Nasional Berhad
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Program
US	-	United States
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
ZEO	-	Zero Energy Office

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

In recent years, a rising demand in energy production and high electricity bill encourage energy to be one of the most attractive fields in research work. Generally, energy is a crucial necessity for all activities in human daily lifeline. It also became an essential driving force in the nation's economy. The dramatic increase in the development and growth of the population worldwide, insists ever rising for both energy production and energy consumption.

However, the endless use of energy will exhaust energy resources sooner or later [1]. This circumstance creates various negative impacts towards environmental degradation which eventually lead to the global warming, CO₂ gas emissions, climate change, and thinning of ozone layer [2, 3]. Not only that, this problem also contributes to low quality of life and critical health problem for humans due to the pollution that occurred. Public awareness and implementation strategies for better use of energy practice in a more organized manner will help to overcome these obstacles.

For the purpose of energy conservation and sustainability, understanding the problem occurs in the energy sector is necessary to offer an effective solution. It is important to know when and where energy has consumed within facilities. The end user of energy consumption can be categorized into four main sectors which are

transportation, industry, residential and commercial. The trend for energy source used by end user sector in the world can be seen in Figure 1.1. Electricity use and natural gas increased rapidly in both residential and commercial sectors. In the meantime, petroleum consumption declined in both sectors, while the renewable energy usage slightly increased in the residential sector. In contrast to the transportation sector, petroleum is the leading sources of energy consumption. In industrial sector, petroleum and natural gas were the predominant sources. Coal use in the industrial sector has declined and both electricity and renewable energy show the increasing trend of consumption.

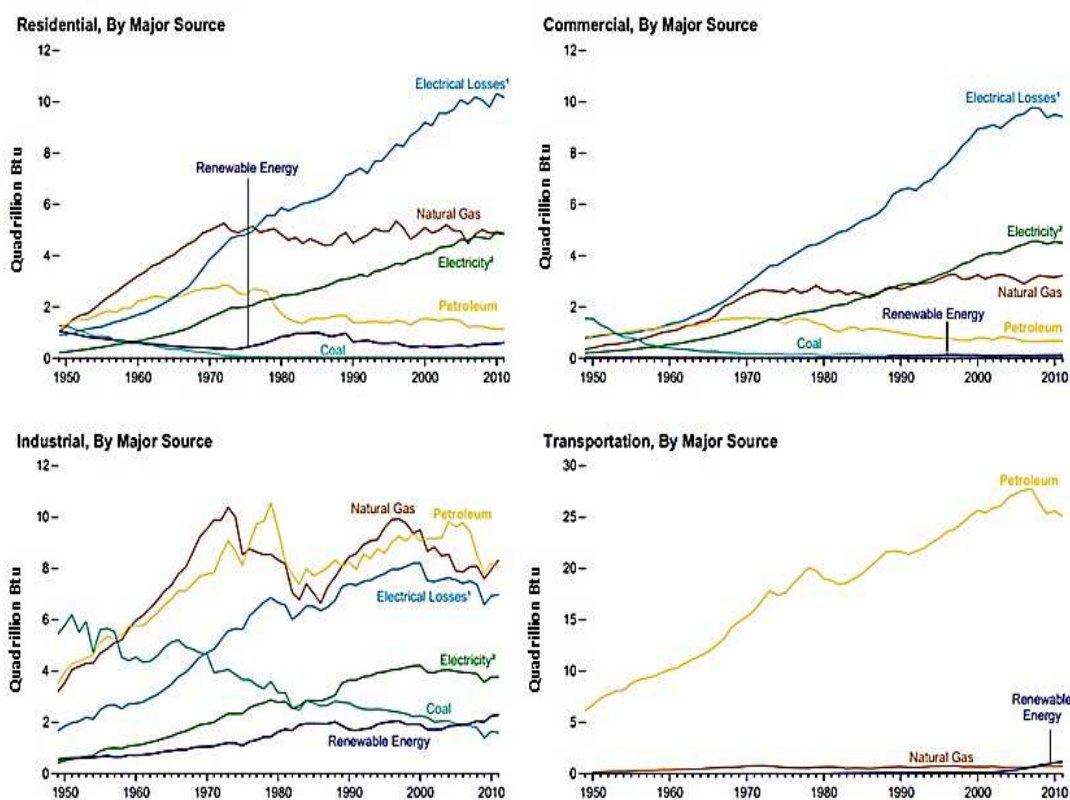


Figure 1.1: Energy source used by end user sector, 1949-2011 [4].

Building sector, which is the main study area in this thesis has been identified as a large energy consumer as it accounts for a significant percentage of a nation's energy consumption [5]. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) remarked that building sector consumed within 30%-40% of the world's energy [6]. The usage of energy in buildings for various countries respectively 23% for Spain

[7], 40% for Europe [8], 25% for Japan [9], 28% for China [10], 39% for the United Kingdom [7], 42% for Brazil [11], 50% for Botswana [12], and 47% for Switzerland [13]. All these numbers come to a conclusion in which it proves that building is one of the quarter that should be a concern since it monopoly a very high global energy consumption.

In Malaysia, commercial building alone makes up approximately 32% of total energy consumption [14]. From that amount, 90% energy utilization is in the form of electricity [15]. The rapid development of the country resulted in dramatically increased number of commercial buildings and indirectly, the energy demand is also increasing. Nonetheless, this development should run in parallel with energy production and energy consumption due to the depletion of energy resources [16]. With the current rising energy demand, the main concern is not only focusing on how to produce the required energy, but also ways to improve energy efficiency to ensure a sustainable energy supply so that it can meet the required demand. To achieve the energy efficiency goal, Malaysian Standard MS 1525:2007, Code of Practice on Energy Efficiency and use of Renewable Energy for Non-Residential Building is introduced [17]. This code of practice intends to reduce energy consumption in buildings by emphasizing good organization in the aspect of engineering, architectural, landscaping and site planning for the design of buildings. Energy efficiency by definition is the capabilities to provide the same outcome by using less energy [18]. By utilizing lower input, more energy can be saved as well as electricity bill. Energy building improvement usually can be seen from the outcome of consumer behavioural, advance technological alternative, and economic changes.

University building as one of the commercial buildings is also among high energy consumers because of its characteristics which have comprehensive facilities, large build up area and of course the number of consumers also will be high. Thus, government urging all education institutions for better use of energy through two recognized organizations made up of The Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and The Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE) [16, 17].

In order to promote a more sustainable way of consuming energy, energy management plays a pivotal role in achieving such a target. As awareness on energy saving practice gains momentum, various energy management program initiative has been taken by higher institution. One of public universities that participate in this campaign was Universiti Teknologi Malaysia [17, 19] due to the high energy consumption within the building and expensive electricity bill as shown in Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3. UTM's annual energy consumption for 2009 is approximately 58.81 kWh millions and RM18.99 millions for electricity bill. Annual electrical usage trend in 2009 is the highest due to the increased number of students and also the increased number of buildings within the campus. This scenario is also a reflection of the low awareness of energy saving among staff and students on campus. However, due to the Energy Management Program that was in place beginning 2010, there is a marked reduction in energy consumption.

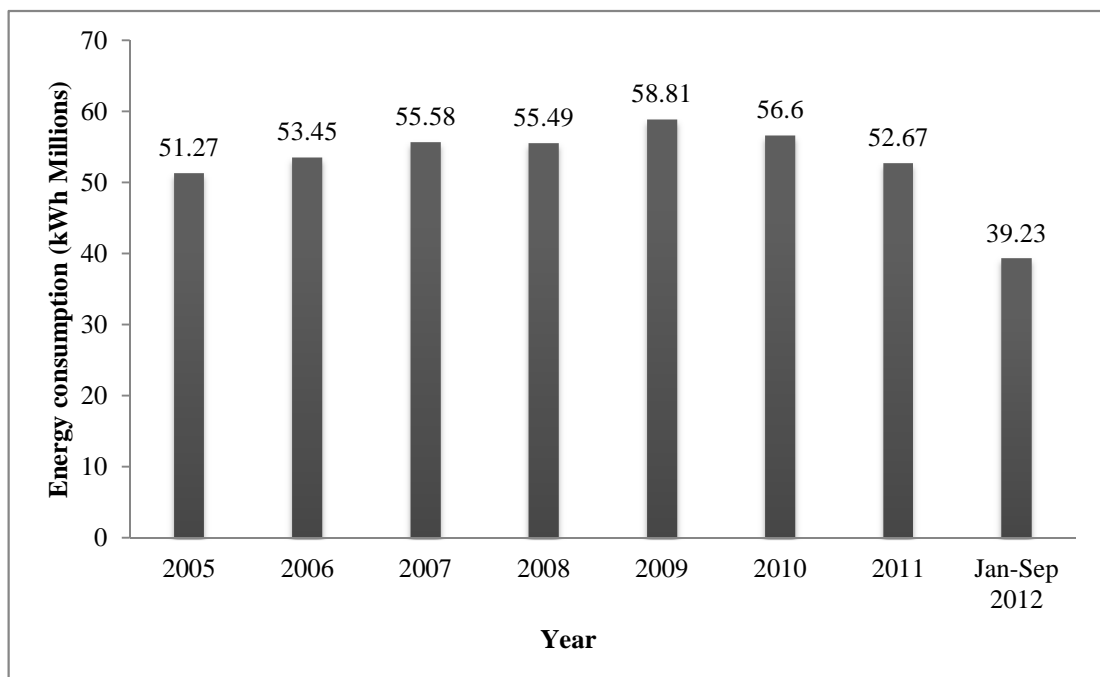


Figure 1.2: Energy consumption trend at UTM from 2005-2012 (in kWh).

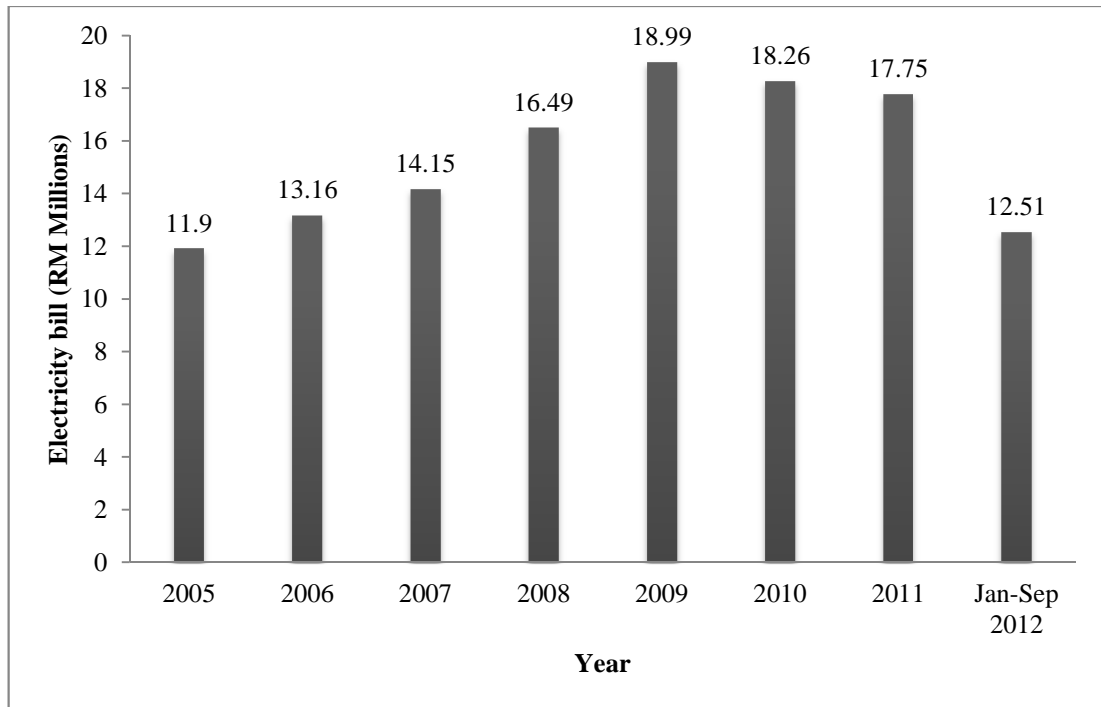


Figure 1.3: Electricity bill at UTM from 2005-2012 (in RM).

UTM technically is built on 1145 hectares of land and occupied by 25000 population included student and staff. It consists of 572 numbers of buildings with 16 faculties, 13 residential colleges, and offices. Energy end-use in university building is largely dominated by the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning System (HVAC) and followed by lighting. Because of very high monthly utility bills, UTM has established numerous energy management practices since 2010 through no cost initiative, low cost initiative and high cost initiative to reduce energy demand within facilities. Several initiative taken is organized in the Table 1.1 [20]. All these initiative aims to minimize the cost and maximize the incoming profit for the organization.

Table 1.1: Energy saving strategies (2010-2012) [20].

Bil	Energy Efficiency Target Sector	Initiatives Taken	Category
1	Housekeeping	Reset centralised Air-Conditioning (AC) System (24°C & at 7.30am-4.30pm)	No cost initiative
		Policy not to use centralised AC during weekend	No cost initiative
		Continuous monthly/daily/weekend checking on street/building lightings, centralised AC system	No cost initiative
		Installation of soft starter for AC system	Low cost initiative
2	Sustainable Energy Management Tools	Bi-monthly energy management review	No cost initiative
		Electrical Billing Management System (EBMS)	Low cost initiative
		TNB OPTR 20% discount	No cost initiative
		TNB street lighting tariff correction	Low cost initiative
		EM practice best practice check-list	No cost initiative
		EM document sharing	No cost initiative
		UTM-optimal audit	No cost initiative

		Carbon Calculator	Low cost initiative
3	Key Focus Area	Lighting Retrofit	High cost initiative
		Replace AC system using VRF system	High cost initiative
		Private Financing Initiatives(PFI): Installation of VRF AC system	High cost initiative
		Private Financing Initiatives(PFI): LED street lighting retrofit	High cost initiative
		Use of Renewable energy (PFI): Solar system and wind turbine pilot project	High cost initiative
4	Marketing	Awareness program at faculties, colleges and offices	No cost initiative
		Energy saving campaign	No cost initiative
		Yearly workshop on Energy Management Working procedure	Low cost initiative
		Monthly energy management report to University's Management group	No cost initiative
		Email Group & Facebook	No cost initiative

To ensure that strategies applied is effective, monitoring energy performance is needed during the implementation of energy saving strategies. For the purpose of energy performance evaluation, Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) implementation is undeniably important in comparing energy use within the building. EEI is an essential tool that appears as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to monitor the

energy consumption reading in a building so that energy can be managed in a more efficient way [21]. Figure 1.4 illustrates the performance of EEI for UTM from 2009 until 2012. A decreasing trend in the bar chart is the result of the initiatives taken for the whole campus as stated in the Table 1.1 above. It can be seen that the EEI has shown a reduction approximately 4.2% in 2010, 6.25% in 2011 and 0.7% in 2012.

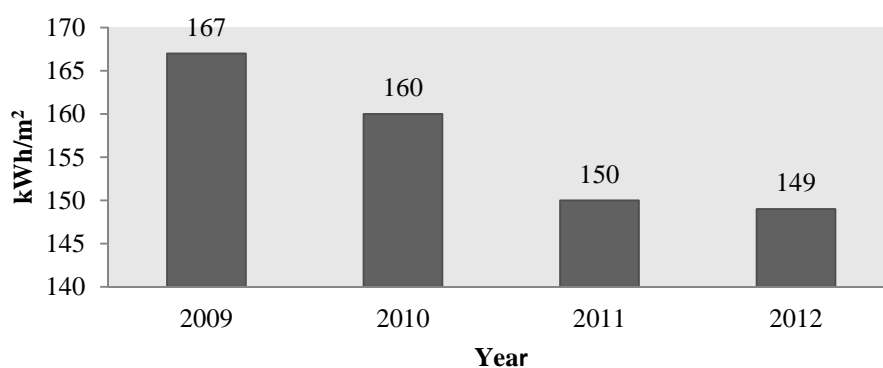


Figure 1.4: Energy Efficiency Index in UTM for 2009-2012.

This EEI, which is the aim in this thesis become a significant indicator since it was used in the worldwide for energy building analysis. There are all sorts of variations in the EEI mathematical algorithm inspired by researcher before. What differentiates all this algorithm is the considered factor related to the energy used. Thus, variables and uncertainties of the factor related in the energy become the gap that needed a deep study in this field. The detailed on this research will be discussed in the Chapter 3 and Chapter 4.

1.2 Problem Statement

This study was conducted based on a number of issues. Inefficient energy utilization in the facility causes the increment in energy demand of power consumption. Sometime undesirable peak loads have also occurred. This unpredicted situation ultimately will reflect to high monthly utility bill that organization had to bear. The concern toward energy usage in a more efficient way

make energy management in an organization is the main key to drive the effort for better use energy practice [16]. This requires a standard baseline as the reference to monitor the energy usage. Allowing organizations to set up energy baseline in the building insists on a certain method or indicator for ease to perform an assessment. One of the most commonly uses indicator in the building sector's broadly is an Energy Efficiency Index (EEI). The execution of this index will help the energy management to prepare the action plan for the future.

Despite EEI was the best indicator in energy analysis [21], yet it still has the limitations. The existing index is tied to the size of the building and measured based on the energy used per unit of building floor area which is expressed in kWh/m². The lower EEI value, the higher effective level of energy use indeed it does provide great potential for energy saving in that building. However, this index has a shortcoming in determining the optimum level of energy consumption. It failed to identify how much energy is being consumed by an occupant. Generally, the size of the floor area will be the same at all-time, but the changes in power consumption reading still occurred. That means, there are other unknown variable that involved. Thus, the research on these uncertainties parameters is necessary since the buildings energy system is very complex.

This thesis wishes to develop a new mathematical algorithm of EEI that can be effectively used in university building. The calls for the index improvement become a crucial urged. EEI is not only depend on the size floor area, but also strongly depend on the activities carried out in each particular block. All the unseen factor engage that will affect EEI reading can be found through the study from each particular activity.

1.3 Objective of the Research

This research embarks on the following objectives:

- I. To identify parameter that affect the optimum use of energy consumption

- II. To propose a new mathematical algorithm of Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) for university building by considering its actual activities through cluster approach
- III. To analyze energy saving opportunity in university building via new Energy Efficiency Index (EEI)

1.4 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on developing a new mathematical algorithm of EEI that fit with university building through cluster approach. The study was conducted on selected buildings in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (FKE) in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Johor.

When it comes to the EEI, two main aspects that should be emphasized are energy consumption and also factor related to the energy using component. For energy consumption, a typical load come from two main electrical loads which are air-conditioning system and lighting. These two loads consumed a lot of power consumption to ensure occupant comfort level and end up be the source of higher utility bill for organization.

As for the factor related to the energy using component, one of the required parameters, of course gross floor area for each room. Other suspected significant parameter involved was number of occupant in a room and also operation hours of energy utilization. These speculated parameter is then will validated by using a cluster approach to show that it really affects the energy consumption performance which absolutely will reflect to the EEI reading. Cluster approach is clustering the building, according the room activities it carries. For university building, the analysis of EEI is accordance to three major cluster activities included classroom, office, and laboratory room.

Establishment of the proposed algorithm integrated with shifting method that will be applied to the classroom activities. This method is used for the re-allocation

of classroom with suitable number of occupants to minimize the energy waste. Comparison the data analysis between before apply the shifting method and after applying the shifting method will show the potential amount of energy saving that can be achieved. In addition, this method also reveals the significant number of occupants as the parameter in EEI structural.

The relationship between index algorithm and the aspect of operation hours will be highlighted through the analysis in office room, and also laboratories room. Operation hours play an important factor in influencing the rate of energy consumption in the building. The peak hour usually occurred during office hour between 8.00 am to 5.00 pm because of all activities carried out at that time. From this standpoint, human behaviour and changes in technology are some of the steps that will be taken to control the rising energy demand.

1.5 Significance of the Research

EEI is an essential indicator nowadays in the building sector. It is very useful for both owner and tenant to provide better understanding of their building energy utilization so that they will be able to organize effective energy efficiency strategies to control the production of energy consumption. Indirectly, the electrical bill also can be reduced, which is another advantage to the owner.

However, the weaknesses of the existing EEI that failed to determine the optimum use of energy in each room make a limitation in the implementation of this index. In addition, current used EEI only consider the gross floor area as the factor related meanwhile each building has its own particular activities. There must be another significant factor involved.

It is with this concern, a new mathematical algorithm of EEI should be developed. This new algorithm is expected to give an accurate building energy performance and be able to track the optimization of energy level either amount of energy being wasted or the potential for energy saving.

1.6 Thesis Organization

This thesis is apportioned into five chapters. Chapter 1 illustrates the overview of the study. It includes the background of the research, problem statement, objectives, scope of research and the significance of the research.

Meanwhile, chapter 2 keep on the literature review. This chapter reviews the algorithms proposed by various researchers around the world. The concept of EEI, the index's principle as well as both advantage and disadvantage previous methods are also outlined in this chapter.

Chapter 3 presents in depth description of the methodology applied to come out with the proposed index. It enlightens the steps taken throughout the progress of this research in order to achieve relevant analysis. This chapter correspondingly discusses the technical constraints in the building by activities which are important to incorporate with the index algorithm.

Chapter 4 contains the analyses and finding results of this study. The outcome is displayed in simple figures, tables and charts, along with a comprehensive description of the findings.

Finally, Chapter 5 is the closing of this study. The conclusion and a few recommendations to improve this study are clarified.

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