

**DISPERSION OF PARTICULATE MATTER FROM PALM OIL REFINERY  
MILL**

**WONG LEE ING**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**2006  
DISPERSION OF PARTICUALTE MATTER FROM PALM OIL REFINERY  
MILL**

**By**

**WONG LEE ING**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**February 2006**

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

**DISPERSION OF PARTICULATE MATTER FROM PALM OIL REFINERY MILL**

By

**WONG LEE ING**

**February 2006**

**Chairman : Associate Professor Sa'ari bin Mustapha, PhD**

**Faculty : Engineering**

The appearance of industrial emissions and the degradation of scenic vistas are two characteristics of air pollution that humans object. Reduction in visibility suggests worsening pollution levels. Visibility is characterized by either its visual range, or by opacity. The emissions from mobile source and stationary source are the major source of air pollutions contribution in Malaysia. Suspended particulate matter (SPM) and nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) are the predominant pollutants from these two sources exhaust smokes. Increasing the amounts of combustion product, gases carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) in the atmosphere also create an effect of blanket layer to increase retention of particulate matter and vapour near the earth before releasing to the space. The consequence of increasing the concentration, the particulate matter dissolves with vapour and grows into droplets when the humidity exceeds approximately 70%. The saturated particulate

matter acts as nuclei to scatter sun rays that will impair visibility and causing opaque situation known as haze.

The study of dispersion particulate matter from palm oil mill serves as a purpose of modeling the transport of particulate matter for obtaining permits and prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) to the environment. Gaussian Plume Model from a point source, subject to various atmospheric conditions is used to calculate particulate matter concentration then display the distribution of plume dispersion using geographic information system (GIS). Mixing height is determined to forecast potential haze occurrence. Dispersion of particulate matter from palm oil mill is following Gaussian Model and its concentration is normally distributed. The calculated particulate matter concentration is evaluated using Transient Matrix function. Atmospheric Stability, mixing height, wind direction, wind speed, natural and artificial features play an important role in dispersion process. High concentration area exhibits immediately under prevailing wind direction.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai  
memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENYEBARAN PARTIKULAT DARI KILANG PEMPROSESAN MINYAK  
KELAPA SAWIT**

Oleh

**WONG LEE ING**

**February 2006**

**Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Sa'ari bin Mustapha, PhD**

**Fakulti : Kejuruteraan**

Kemunculan industri yang mengeluarkan wasap dan mendegrasikan pandangan kawasan berpemandangan indah telah menjadi dua ciri tumpuan manusia terhadap pencemaran udara. Pengurangan darjah penglihatan menandakan semakin bertambah buruk tahap pencemaran udara. Darjah penglihatan dicirikan dengan mengukur kedua-dua jarak penglihatan dan kekaburan udara sesuatu tempat itu. Pengeluaran jenis punca bergerak dan punca pegun adalah sumbangan utama punca pencemaran udara di Malaysia. Partikulat terampai dan gas Nitrogen Dioksida adalah bahan pencemar udara yang terlepas dari asap ekzos kedua-dua jenis punca tersebut. Penambahan jumlah hasil pembakaran, gas karbon dioksida di dalam atmosfera juga menimbulkan kesan litupan lapisan yang akan menahan partikulat dan wap supaya berada dekat dengan bumi sebelum dilepaskan ke angkasa lepas. Akibat daripada penambahan kepekatan,

partikulat melenyapkan diri dengan wap dan menjadi titisan apabila kelembapan melebihi kira-kira 70%. Partikulat tepu bertindak sebagai nukleus untuk menyelerakkan sinar matahari yang seterusnya mengurangkan darjah penglihatan dan menyebabkan keadaan kabur yang diketahui sebagai jelebu.

Kajian terhadap penyebaran partikulat dari kilang kelapa sawit, digunakan sebagai tujuan permodelan pengangkutan partikulat bagi memperolehi surat kebenaran dan juga mencegah kemerosotan ketara ke atas alam sekitar. Model Kepulan Gaussian jenis punca titik yang tertakluk pada pelbagai keadaan atmosfera; akan digunakan untuk mengira kepekatan partikulat dan keputusan ditunjukkan dalam bentuk taburan penyebaran kepulan dengan memakai sistem maklumat geografi. Kemuncak bercampur akan ditentukan untuk meramal kemungkinan berlakunya jelebu. Penyebaran partikulat dari kilang kelapa sawit adalah mengikut Model Gaussian dan kepekatannya adalah taburan normal. Kepekatan partikulat yang terhitung akan dinilai dengan menggunakan Fungsi Peralihan Matrik. Kestabilan atmosfera, kemuncak bercampur, arah angin, kelajuan angin, alam semula jadi dan alam secara buatan memainkan peranan penting dalam proses penyebaran. Kawasan berkepekatan tinggi wujud betul-betul di bawah arah angin yang lazim bertiup.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Weather occurs at all altitudes within troposphere; the surface analysis chart often cannot solely explain the weather, even weather occurring at or near the surface. (Lankford, 2000) Thus challenge by challenge has been taken for accuracy forecast to minimize and prevent natural disaster.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest praise to God who has given me strength, faith and determination to complete this thesis.

I would like to express my sincere and deepest appreciation to Associate Professor Dr. Sa'ari Mustapha, the chairman of my supervisory committee for entrusting me, full understanding, patience, invaluable support and guidance.

I am equally indebted to Associate Professor Dr. Abdul Rashid Mohamed Shariff from Department of Biology and Agricultural Engineering and Associate Professor Dr. Chuah Teong Guan from Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering for conscientiously serving as member of my supervisory committee; for reviewing this thesis with constructive criticism, providing assistance in all aspects and encouragement.

My sincere thankful and deepest gratitude must extend to Dr Ahmad Rodzi for his intellectual technical advice in converting 2 dimension contour to 3 dimensions. With

compliments to Department of Environment (DOE) and Malaysia Meteorological Service (MMS) for the data supply.

Finally, my grateful beyond measure to my parents, 3 sisters and brother for their unfailing love, relentless encouragement, support and prayers that have contributed towards the accomplishment of this thesis.

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 23 February 2006 to conduct the final examination of Wong Lee Ing on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Dispersion of Particulate Matter from Palm Oil Refinery Mill” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

**Fakhrul-Razi bin Ahmadun, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Thomas Choong Shean Yaw, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Mohd Amran bin Mohd Salleh, PhD**

Lecturer  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Internal Examiner)

**Ahmad Rahman bin Songip, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resource Engineering  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  
(External Examiner)

---

**HASANAH MOHD. GHAZALI, PhD**

Professor/Deputy Dean

School of Graduate Studies

Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of requirements for the degree of Master Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee are as follows:

**Sa’ari bin Mustapha, PhD**

Associate Professor

Faculty of Engineering

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Chairman)

**Abdul Rashid bin Mohamed Shariff, PhD**

Associate Professor

Faculty of Engineering

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Member)

**Luqman Chuah bin Abdullah, PhD**

Associate Professor

Faculty of Engineering

Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Member)

---

**AINI IDERIS, PhD**  
Professor/Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for equations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

**WONG LEE ING**

Date:

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vii
<b>APPROVAL</b>	ix
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xvi
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	xx
 <b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Particulate Matter Emission	2
1.3 Statement of Problem	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	5
1.5 Assumptions Taken During the Study	5
1.6 Significances of Study	7
1.7 Limitations of Study	7
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Palm Oil Emission	9
2.2 Effects of Particulate Matter on Climate	10
2.3 Effects of Particulate Matter on Buildings and Materials	11
2.4 Effects of Particulate Matter to Visibility	12
2.5 Previous Study	14
2.6 Definition of Dispersion	16
2.7 Horizontal Transport	18
2.8 Vertical Turbulent Diffusion	20
2.9 Urban Effects on Diffusion	22
2.10 Obstacles Effects on Diffusion	23
2.11 Valleys Effects on Diffusion	25
2.12 Atmospheric Stability and Plume Types Dispersion	27
2.13 Formation of Atmospheric Haze	32
2.14 Mixing Heights	33
2.15 Air Pollution Potential Forecast	35
2.16 Summary	36
<b>3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Introduction	39

3.2	Data Collection	39
3.3	Gaussian Plume Model	42
3.3.1	Determination of Stability Category	43
3.3.2	Calculation of Dispersion Parameter $\sigma_y$ and $\sigma_z$	44
3.3.3	Calculate the Wind Speed at the Release Height	46
3.3.4	Calculation of the Effective Stack Height	47
3.3.4.1	Downwash Consideration	48
3.3.4.2	Terrain Consideration	49
3.3.5	Calculate the Release Rate Q	50
3.3.6	Solve the Dispersion Equation	51
3.4	Potential Haze Occurrence Estimation	52
3.4.1	Determination of Mixing Height	52
3.4.2	Determination of Visual Range	54
3.5	Development of GIS System	57
3.5.1	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	57
3.5.2	Data Capture	58
3.5.3	GIS Layers	60
3.5.4	Thematic Map of Isopleths	62
<b>4</b>	<b>SITE INFORMATION</b>	
4.1	Study Area	65
4.2	Regional Climate	70
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b>	
5.1	Determination of Particulate Matter Concentration from Stack Emission	73
5.2	The Case Study Days and Months	74
5.2.1	Selected Case Study Day : 3 February	75
5.2.2	Selected Case Study Day : 12 June	86
5.2.3	Selected Case Study Day : 17 September	97
5.2.4	Selected Case Study Month : April	107
5.2.5	Selected Case Study Month : August	110
5.2.6	Selected Case Study Month : October	114
5.3	Mixing Height	118
5.4	Significance of Study Case to the Haze Occurrence Potential	130
5.5	Effects of the Variation Parameters on Dispersion	142
5.6	Display of the Spatial Distribution for Particulate Matter Concentration Using GIS	147
5.7	Evaluation	150
5.7.1	Transilient Matrix	150
5.7.2	Relation between Transilient Diffusion and Gaussian Dispersion	150
5.7.3	Assessing Dispersion Model Adequacy	152
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	166

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	169
<b>APPENDICES</b>	181
<b>BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR</b>	340