

UPMKB students gain insight into rubber processing industry

BINTULU: A group of 18 students from the sixth semester of the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Industrial Chemistry programme at Universiti Putra Malaysia Bintulu campus (UPMKB), accompanied by Dr Sivasangar Seenivasagam, embarked on an educational visit to the Lung Kong rubber processing plant in Serian on Saturday.

The visit, part of the Rubber Chemistry and Technology (CHY3507) course, aimed to provide students with practical exposure to the rubber processing industry.

Lung Kong Rubber Sdn Bhd is one of the three operating rubber processing mills in Sarawak, boasting a 19-acre processing facility.

The mill director, Dr Voon Kok Choon, welcomed the group and provided an overview of the plant's operations.

"Most of the raw rubber materials are imported from overseas, processed into SMR 20 grade rubber bales, and subsequently exported to China," he said.

During his presentation, Dr Voon highlighted the significant challenges faced by rubber mills in Sarawak, particularly in sourcing raw rubber locally.

"Various factors contribute to these difficulties, which impact the sustainability and growth of the local rubber processing industry.

"Despite these challenges, the potential market opportunities for processed rubber products underscore the importance of innovation and adaptation in the industry," said Dr Voon.



UPMKB students embarked on an educational visit to the Lung Kong rubber processing plant in Serian for valuable industry insights.

The students had the opportunity to observe various stages of raw rubber processing, from initial treatment to the production of the final rubber bales.

This hands-on experience is invaluable in enhancing their understanding of the complex processes involved in rubber production and the quality control measures required to meet export standards.

The visit, which lasted three hours, was an enriching experience for the students, offering them a real-

world perspective on the theoretical knowledge gained in their coursework.

The insights gained from this visit will undoubtedly contribute to their academic and professional growth in the field of industrial chemistry.

Dr Sivasangar Seenivasagam expressed his gratitude to Lung Kong Rubber Sdn Bhd for their support in facilitating this visit.

He also extended heartfelt thanks to Tanjong Batu assemblyman Johnny Pang Leong Ming, for the modest financial support that made this educational excursion possible.