

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

EVALUATION OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FOR WATER INTAKE USING VISUAL MODFLOW AT TANJUNG MAS

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MUHAMMAD AIDIL HAKIM BIN MHD RAMZAM

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

January 2020

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

EVALUATION OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FOR WATER INTAKE USING VISUAL MODFLOW AT TANJUNG MAS

By

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January 2020

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Groundwater is the largest available reservoir of freshwater in the world with a low risk of contamination and will remains available during summer. In Kelantan mainly on the northern part had taken best of this opportunity which turns this state into the largest groundwater abstraction in Malaysia. The groundwater abstraction activities started to increase when Kelantan river became high in contamination due to logging in the upper stream and uncontrolled sand mining which then forces the locals to find another alternative of freshwater sources. Subsequently, problems occur when some country in the world had suffered from land subsidence and seawater intrusion caused by over abstraction of groundwater in a particular area. To sustain the groundwater supply, understanding of the groundwater system is essential to develop proper groundwater management for future use.

This research aims to investigate the sustainability of groundwater source at Northern Kota Bharu area for portable use. In the current situation, pumping activities at Kg Puteh, Pintu Geng and Tanjung Mas wellfield are running with a capacity of 37200m3/day, 9696 m3/day and 9875 m3/day. A suggestion has been made to increase the abstraction of groundwater at Tanjung Mas wellfield to 25375 m3/day which affect the current environment. Two-dimensional Electrical Resistivity method has been used to estimate the geological structure of the study area. 3 main layers has been identified in this study; sandy silt, gravelly sand and bedrock. with aids of resistivity and geological log, a groundwater model has been developed by using Visual MODFLOW software version 4.6 to evaluate the groundwater system at the study area. The model has been calibrated with r=0.802 and the calibrated groundwater model was then applied for prediction in normal and dry season.

In this study, the prediction climate data were obtained from the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). Groundwater recharge for the dry season was taking by 6% from the average annual rainfall while normal season is taking 18% of the average annual rainfall. The simulation result shows that groundwater source can be abstracted during normal condition with average recharge equal to 472.56 mm/year and total groundwater abstraction, of 9875 m3/day at Tanjung Mas wellfield without disturbing current pumping activities at Kg Puteh wellfield. In case of dry periods (recharge = 169.780mm/year), it can be seen the wide radius of influence, especially when increasing the pumping rate to 25375m3/day at Tanjung Mas wellfield. Tanjung Mas wellfield in scenario 4 has been taken to study the possibility for the subsidence to occur. Using Terzaghi's consolidation theory, the total land subsidence can occur in this site is 0.035 meter if the water table drops for a long period. The calculation for 90% final subsidence for clay layers will take place after 21.8 years and this makes the subsidence rate at Tanjung Mas wellfield 1.47 mm per year. With the combination of population growth management, conservation strategies and augmentation of existing groundwater supplies, the groundwater model will become an important tool for sustainable groundwater development.

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

PENILAIAN PENGAMBILAN AIR BAWAH TANAH YANG MAMPAN UNTUK PENGGUNA AIR MENGGUNAKAN VISUAL MODFLOW DI TANJUNG MAS

Oleh

MUHAMMAD AIDIL HAKIM BIN MHD RAMZAM

Januari 2020

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Air bawah tanah adalah takungan air terbesar yang terdapat di dunia dengan risiko pencemaran yang rendah dan akan tetap ada pada musim panas. Di Kelantan terutamanya di bahagian utara telah mengambil kesempatan ini dan menjadikan negeri ini sebagai pengekstrakan air bawah tanah terbesar di Malaysia. Kegiatan pengekstrakan air bawah tanah mulai meningkat apabila sungai Kelantan menjadi pencemaran yang tinggi disebabkan oleh pembalakan di kawasan hulu dan perlombongan pasir yang tidak terkawal yang kemudian memaksa penduduk tempatan untuk mencari sumber alternative air tawar. Selepas itu, masalah berlaku apabila sesetengah negara di dunia mengalami pemendapan tanah dan pencerobohan air laut yang disebabkan oleh lebihan pengekstrakan air bawah tanah di kawasan tertentu. Untuk mengekalkan bekalan air bawah tanah, pemahaman tentang sistem air bawah tanah adalah penting untuk membangunkan pengurusan air bawah tanah yang sesuai untuk kegunaan masa depan.

Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk menyiasat kelestarian sumber air bawah tanah di kawasan Utara Kota Bharu untuk kegunaan setempat. Dalam keadaan semasa, aktiviti pengepaman di Kg Puteh, Pintu Geng dan Tanjung Mas wellfield sedang berjalan dengan kapasiti $37200m^3$ /hari, 9696 m³/hari dan 9875m³/hari. Cadangan telah dibuat untuk meningkatkan pengekstrakan air bawah tanah di Tanjung Mas wellfield kepada $25375m^3$ /hari yang memberi kesan kepada persekitaran semasa. Kaedah kerintangan elektrik dua dimensi telah digunakan untuk menganggarkan struktur geologi kawasan kajian. 3 lapisan utama telah dikenalpasti dalam kajian ini; lumpur berpasir, pasir berkerut dan batuan dasar. Dengan bantuan kerintangan elektrik dan log geologi, model air bawah tanah telah dibangunkan dengan menggunakan perisian Visual MODFLOW versi 4.6 untuk menilai sistem air bawah tanah di kawasan kajian. Model ini telah dikalibrasi dengan r = 0.802 dan model air

bawah tanah yang dikalibrasi kemudiannya digunakan untuk ramalan pada musim normal dan musim kering

Dalam kajian ini, data iklim ramalan diperoleh dari Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran. cas semula air bawah tanah pada musim kering diambil sebanyak 6% daripada hujan tahunan purata manakala musim biasa diambil 18% daripada hujan tahunan purata. Hasil simulasi menunjukkan sumber air bawah tanah dapat diekstrak semasa musim normal dengan purata cas semula 472.56 mm/tahun dan jumlah pengekstrakan air bawah tanah sebanyak 9875m³/hari di kawasan Tanjung Mas tanpa mengganggu aktiviti pengepaman semasa di Kg Puteh. Dalam kes tempoh kering (cas semula = 169.780 mm/ tahun), dapat dilihat radius luas pengaruh terutama apabila meningkatkan kadar pam hingga 25375m³/hari di Tanjung Mas. Keadaan Tanjung Mas dalam senario 4 telah diambil untuk mengkaji kemungkinan pemendapan tanah yang akan berlaku berlaku. Dengan menggunakan teori penggabungan Terzaghi, jumlah penenggelaman tanah boleh berlaku di laman web ini adalah 0.035 meter jika jadual air jatuh dalam tempoh masa yang lama. Pengiraan untuk penebusan akhir 90% untuk lapisan tanah liat akan berlaku selepas 21.8 tahun dan ini menjadikan kadar pemendapan tanah di Tanjung Mas 1.47 mm setahun.

Dengan gabungan pengurusan pertumbuhan populasi, strategi pemuliharaan dan pembesaran bekalan air bawah tanah sedia ada, model air bawah tanah akan menjadi alat penting untuk pembangunan air bawah tanah yang mapan.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	V
APPROVAL	vi
DECLARATION	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi

CHAPTER

1	INTR	ODUCTION Background Study		1 1
	1.2	Problem Statement		2
	1.3	Objectives		4
	1.4	Scope of Work		4
	1.5	Limitation		5
2	LITE	RATURE REVIEW		6
-	2.1	Groundwater Occurrence		6
	2.2	Groundwater in Malavsia		7
	2.3	Role of Geophysics in	n Groundwater	
		Prospecting and Hydrogeolo	gy	8
		2.3.1 Several Type of	of Geophysical	
		Investigation		9
		2.3.2 Relationship Betwee	e <mark>en Geoph</mark> ysics	
		and Well Lithology		10
	2.4	Delineation of Aquifer Layer	Using Electrical	
		Resistivity		11
	2.5	Groundwater Modelling		13
		2.5.1 Conceptual Model		14
		2.5.2 Model Calibration an	nd Validation	19
	2.6	Sustainability of Groundwate	Abstraction	20
		2.6.1 Surface Water Deple	etion	21
		2.6.2 Saltwater Intrusion		22
		2.6.3 Land Subsidence		22
3	MET	HODOLOGY		25
	3.1	General Overview		25
	3.2	Study Area		26
	3.3	Data Acquisition		26
		3.3.1 Hydrological and	Meteorological	
		Data		27
		3.3.2 Topographic and Ge	ological Data	29
		3.3.3 Hydrogeology of Stu	dy Area	30

	3.4	Geophysical Investigation Using Electrical Resistivity	33
		3.4.1 Survey Plan and Data Analysis	34
	3.5	Groundwater Modelling	35
		3.5.1 Model Setup	36
		3.5.2 Model Geological Structure of	07
		Aquiter Layers	37
		3.5.3 Well Information	39
		3.5.5 Boundary Condition	43
	36	Model Calibration and Validation	47
	3.7	Sustainable Groundwater Abstraction	
		Application	47
		3.7.1 Groundwater Simulation in Different	
		Scenario	48
		3.7.2 Evaluation of Land Subsidence	48
4	RES	SULTS AND DISCUSSION	50
	4.1	Evaluation of Potential Aquifer Using	
		Resistivity Survey	50
		4.1.1 Comparison Between Resistivity and	
		Well Lithology	51
	4.2	Development of Hydrogeological Conceptual	54
		Model	51
		4.2.1 Model Structure and Boundary	52
		4.2.2 Model Calibration and Validation	53
	4.3	Groundwater Model Application	56
		4.3.1 Scenario 1: Normal Season	56
		4.3.2 Scenario 2: Dry Season	58
		4.3.3 Scenario 3: Increase Pumping Rate	
		at Tanjung Mas Wellfield in The	
		Normal Season	59
		4.3.4 Scenario 4: Increase Pumping Rate	
		Season	60
		435 Evaluation of Land Subsidence at	00
		Taniung Mas Wellfield	62
		4.3.6 Calculation of Time Factor for Land	
		Subsidence to Occur on Clay Layer	64
5	CON	ICLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	65
	5.1	Conclusion	65
	5.2	Recommendations	66
REFEREN	CES		67
APPENDI	CES		74
BIODATA	OF ST	TUDENT	75

G

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Common resistivity values for various type of rocks and soil	12
2.2	Resistivity value for alluvium layer	12
2.3	Hydraulic conductivity for unconsolidated sedimentary material	17
2.4	Hydraulic conductivity for sedimentary rock	17
2.5	Hydraulic conductivity for crystalline rock	18
2.6	Specific storage for various geological material	18
2.7	Porosity, specific yield and specific retention values	19
2.8	Porosity, void ratio, density, and unit weight of typical soils in natural state	24
2.9	Modulus of elasticity of soils and rocks	24
3.1	Data acquisition for groundwater modelling	26
3.2	Well lithology at Tanjung Mas wellfield	38
3.3	Total groundwater abstraction of North Kelantan in year 2010	39
3.4	List of the well in the study area	42
3.5	Aquifer properties data used for model	45
3.6	Average groundwater recharge from 3 rainfall station	47
3.7	Several groundwater scenarios predicted at study area	48
3.8	Parameter used in land subsidence calculation	49
4.1	Generalized soil layers	51
4.2	Parameter used for calibration and validation model	54
4.3	Groundwater balance in Scenario 1	57

 \overline{O}

4.4	Groundwater balance in Scenario 2	59
4.5	Groundwater balance in Scenario 3	60
4.6	Groundwater balance in Scenario 4	62
4.7	Soil subsidence calculation for Tanjung Mas wellfield	63



 \bigcirc

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Hydrological cycle	7
2.2	Resistivity-conductivity value of various rock- forming materials	10
2.3	Aquifer conceptual model of the North Kelantan River Basin	15
3.1	Flowchart of groundwater modelling	25
3.2	Location of study area	26
3.3	Kelantan River basin	27
3.4	Annual average rainfall in Kota Bharu from 2007 to 2017	28
3.5	Annual evapotranspiration in Kota Bharu from 2013 to 2017	29
3.6	Geological map of Kelantan	30
3.7	Hydrogeological Map of Kelantan	32
3.8	Resistivity survey line	33
3.9	Schlumberger array	33
3.10	Electrical resistivity equipment	34
3.11	Resistivity survey line at Tanjung Mas wellfield	35
3.12	Model domain for grid creation	36
3.13	Base map of the study area in Visual MODFLOW	37
3.14	Creating a geological structure	38
3.15	Location of the pump well	40
3.16	Input window for pumping well	40
3.17	Well distribution in the study area	41
3.18	River profile line in the study area	46

 \overline{O}

4.1	Electrical resistivity profile at Tanjung Mas area	50
4.2	Delineation of resistivity profile and well log	51
4.3	Plan view of conceptual model	52
4.4	Modified specific elevation of model layer	53
4.5	Calibration graph of calculated head vs observed head	54
4.6	Validation graph of calculated head vs observed head	55
4.7	3D view groundwater calibrated head	56
4.8	Groundwater drawdown in Scenario 1	57
4.9	Groundwater drawdown in Scenario 2	58
4.10	Groundwater drawdown in Scenario 3	59
4.11	Groundwater drawdown in Scenario 4	61
4.12	Soi <mark>l layer at Tanjung Mas wellfield</mark>	63

xv

(G)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

°C	Degree celcius		
3D	Three dimensional		
2D	Two dimensional		
VES	Vertical electrical sounding		
ERI	Electrical resistivity imaging		
TDS	Total dissolve solid		
MRS	Magnetic resonance sounding		
TDEM	Time domain electromagnet		
Ωm	Ohm-meter		
СМВ	Chloride mass balance		
ET	Evapotraspiration		
к	Hydraulic conductivity		
n	Porosity		
е	Void ration		
w	Water content		
ρ	Density		
Y	Unit weight		
E	Modulus of elasticity		
AMSL	Above mean sea level		

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Study

Water is one of the valuable natural resources for human life and other living things. It plays a significant role in ensuring sustainable agriculture production for food security in this world. In Malaysia, there are about 97% of our surface water source supplied for domestic, agricultural and industrial needs especially river (FAO, 2016; Hock, 2008). According to Gleick (2019), there is only 1% of surface water is usable by humans and the rest of the usable quantity is situated underground. With this little amount of usable water, there will be a problem in providing adequate water sources as the population growth. The critical phase is when Malaysia experience dry season, the water demand will increase and become worse if involve with the contaminated water situation. In order to solve this issue, proper management and conveyance system becomes a key factor in contributing to the sustainable water supply.

Groundwater is the largest reservoir available of freshwater in this world. It is an alternative source that is expected with low risk of getting contaminated and the water remaining available even during summer. Estimation and understanding of groundwater recharge mechanism and capacity of an aquifer is a vital practice for preserving groundwater storage, as the abstraction rate from an aquifer should not more than the recharging rate in a long term process. Reliable estimates of groundwater recharge rates are required for effective evaluation of groundwater storage capacity. The contact between groundwater and surface water body becomes the major concern in water resources management today. Almost all surface water bodies are linked with groundwater especially in the shallow aquifer. Hence, these two sources of water must be treated as a combined system when studied regarding water quantity guality issues. Since surface water and groundwater are being one source, the possibilities for it to affect each other in term of quality is very high (Winter, 1999). The estimation of surface-groundwater interaction not only to know how much water surface recharge and discharge but also as a model to control the environmental pollution beneath the surface.

Kelantan is one of the state in Malaysia that use groundwater as a primary source for portable water supply. However, over-abstraction of groundwater can lead to harmful geomorphological effects. To determine the groundwater resources is quite challenging. It is difficult to quantify the groundwater resources as it is hidden beneath the earth's crust. Therefore, the study is needed to understand its process and this makes the required data acquisition will be extremely expensive. Groundwater exploration is similar to the exploitation of oil and gas. The investigation cost is crucial in investment for the safely exploited groundwater resources. It is important to quantify the groundwater resource accurately so that all the necessary information regarding the place can be used in the future.

Groundwater modelling is an effective tool in groundwater supervision and remediation today. A model is a simplification of the real natural phenomenon to study and predict the effect of future phenomena. The challenge is to simplify reality that does not poorly influence the accuracy and ability of the model output to meet the desired objectives by using a properly designated conceptual model. To develop a good conceptual model, all the data needed must be reliable and meet the acceptable calibration term before writing to model report.

1.2 Problem Statement

Malaysia is a blessed with an abundance of rainfall annually which average 3000 mm throughout the year and rich with water resources. Most of the surface water resources are obtained from rainfall, river, lake, and stream. Even though Malaysia rich with surface water, but it can be easily affected by extreme weather condition. In 2014, Selangor have faced extremely hot weather, which shows no time of relieved soon, was affect the water supply system and reduce the water level at Sg Selangor dam in Kuala Kubu Baru more than 50% (Ying, 2014).

Besides, surface water tends to experience pollution due to lack of control of human activities. Many types of pollution, such as sewage, detergents, oil spills, muddy stream by the floods, deforestation and quarrying, causing the treatment plant had to be closed. In the case of Kelantan, the Kelantan River's water has been turbid since the 1990s because of the high amount of suspended solids and siltation. This was caused by logging activities in the upstream area and sand mining (Yen and Rohasliney, 2013; Ambak and Zakaria, 2010). The extremely high content of total suspended solids and turbidity have caused poor and stressful condition not only for the aquatic life but also for human use.



Water consumption increases along with an increase in population, economic development and growth and accompanying increase in living standard. Urbanization, climate change, renewed emphasis on environmental water needs and the need for the life millions of people offer great challenges to the agriculture sector. In 1987, there are 18 water supply systems in Northern Kelantan. They can be categorised as groundwater supply system and river abstraction supply system. As groundwater constitutes the largest source of supply in the study area, a total of 9 groundwater supply has been developed in and around the town of Kota Bharu. Most of the groundwater is abstracted from the first aquifer which generally lies between 5 to 15 meters depth below

ground surface (Heng and Singh, 1989). It also states that the groundwater contained beyond this depth is called deep groundwater and three main aquifers have been recognized named 2nd, 3rd and 4th aquifers. Water in 2nd aquifer is brackish whereas it is saline in the 4th aquifer.

Kota Bharu area is located near the coastal area which is underlain by Quaternary alluvium. This area has good groundwater potential because located near the Kelantan river and the elevation is less than 20 meters. Even though it has good groundwater potential, but does mean that it can be extracted blindly without proper management. The common problems occur when over-abstraction of groundwater near coastal area due to water demand by the growing population is seawater intrusion. In the 1970s, 11 tubewell belongs to water companies at England have been closed due to saltwater intrusion problem and 50 sites belong to industry and private abstractors. Thus, this reminds us that Malaysia needs to have enough understanding of the movement of the groundwater system.

Furthermore, even the groundwater consumption is still low in Malaysia but we need to consider the impact of over-abstraction for a certain place. Over abstraction means that the usage rate of groundwater is greater than the rate at which it is replaced by natural processes. According to FOMCA (2009), over-abstraction groundwater can lead to the social, economic and environmental consequences including land subsidence and damage to surface infrastructure, saltwater intrusion, declination of surface water bodies and critical changes in patterns of groundwater flow to and from adjacent systems is also recorded.

Past problem due to over-abstraction at the United States of America reported that more than 17,000 square miles in 45 states were having land subsidence problems. Approximately 83% of the problem took place due to groundwater abstraction (National Research Council, 1991). At China, the maximum depth of land subsidence was recorded at 2.63 meters in shanghai City from 1921 to 1965 and in Tianjin City, it was recorded at 2.46 meters from 1959 to 1985 (Ruilin, 2006). Also, a research has been conducted by Din. M et al. (2015) using Persistent Scattered (PS) InSAR and focused on three prominent well field which is Pintu Geng, Tanjung Mas and Tumpat. This method uses an image from satellite to processes and extracts the deformation signal with time period. The deformation rate was verified by correlated with GPS time series and supported with a hydrogeological map. It was found that the deformation rate at Tanjung Mas, Pintu Geng and Tumpat was 2.39 mm/yr, 1.78 mm/yr and 1.87 mm/yr. This small amount of subsidence is relatively small compared with time period.

Sustainable groundwater abstraction is very important to prevent any undesirable incident as discussed before. Northern Kelantan is where most of the entire population are depending on groundwater whether through state government nor individual itself. But the main concern for this problem is the abstraction of groundwater from the state government that more than 50 MLD from different wellfield. This amount is large enough to pull seawater of its located near to the coastal area. Even though until now there is no sign of environmental effect like other countries, it is good to take precaution step to prevent before it happens.

1.3 Objectives

The main objective of this research is to evaluate the sustainable abstraction of groundwater at Tanjung Mas as a water intake for portable use. The specific objectives of this research are:

- i. To characterize the potential aquifer of using electrical resistivity tomography and well log.
- ii. To develop a hydrogeological model using Visual MODFLOW software.
- iii. To evaluate the predicted groundwater abstraction from Tanjung Mas wellfield to avoid environmental effect at the surrounding area.

1.4 Scope of Work

This research is divided into three phases i.e. development of a conceptual hydrogeological model, calibration of the hydrogeological model and application of the hydrogeological model for prediction under different climate condition. The evaluation of land subsidence focused at Tanjung Mas wellfields because the increase in groundwater abstraction only recommended in Tanjung Mas area. The calibration part is crucial as it leads to the proper conceptual model and also determines whether the model is acceptable or vice versa. To achieve these objectives, the following step must be done:

- i. The preliminary investigation involves searching the secondary data from internet, journals, reports and agencies involved regarding the data needed for this research.
- ii. Site survey has been conducted to develop a better understanding regarding the condition of land use and environment around the study area.
- iii. Conducting electrical resistivity survey using ABEM Terrameter with electrode selector and other accessories
- iv. Develop a hydrogeological conceptual model using Visual MODFLOW software.

- v. Calibration of the hydrogeological model.
- vi. Conducting Simulation of groundwater abstraction on a different scenario for prediction.

1.5 Limitation

- i. The default value was used for aquifer properties in groundwater simulation as there are limited data of pumping test to estimate these parameters. Resistivity survey has been conducted to determine the potential aquifer layer in the study area.
- ii. The river information provided by DID only available at Sungai Kelantan. Several assumptions have been made at Pengkalan Chepa River, Baung river and Pengkalan Datu River.
- iii. Groundwater head measurement is based on secondary data taken only in the year 2002. Thus the gap period of groundwater head and boundary condition will affect the model accuracy and groundwater flow modelling prediction
- iv. As the data available are limited, only steady-state was considered in this research.
- v. This research only focused on groundwater quantitative measurement. Groundwater quality is excluded from this study.
- vi. The sustainability of groundwater was evaluated in terms of the environmental impact of land subsidence only in Tanjung Mas wellfield. Kg Puteh and Pintu Geng wellfield are excluded in this section.

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APPENDICES



Appendix A: Well lithology at Tanjung Mas Wellfield

BIODATA OF STUDENT

The student was born on 21th November 1993 in HUSM Kubang Kerian, Kelantan. He started his education in primary school from Sekolah Kebangsaan Kijal, Kemaman, and Sekolah Kebangsaan Deshon, Sibu from years 1999 to 2005. He then attended Sekolan Menengah Kebangsaan Sibu, Sibu and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dato' Ismail, Pasir Puteh from 2006 to 2010. He entered Selangor Matriculation College before pursuing his degree in Bachelor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Universiti Putra Malaysia. He took four years to complete and was awarded the degree in the year 2016. He started working as a research assistant at Faculty of Engineering for 6 months before he pursued a degree of master in Water Resources Engineering.



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