

ASSESSMENT OF URBAN LAKE WATER QUALITY  
AT THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOIL PROPERTIES

BY

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## ABSTRACT

The assessments of water quality in Malaysia depend on several guidelines such as National Lake Water Quality Criteria and Standard, Urban Storm Water Management Manual for Malaysia and National Water Quality Index Standard. However, these guidelines are very limited in evaluating the status of water quality without considering the significant contribution that affected the quality of water, such as the type of soil. The concern of soil problems in Malaysia arising from laterite, sandy, acid sulphate and organic soil. In addition, the soil is a pollutant-transmitting agent of water run-off and enhance the toxicity level in soil and water bodies. Thus, this research aimed to confirm the interaction between the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of 3 different types of problem soil towards water quality index. The relationship between CEC and urban lake quality index was investigated and verified by spectrophotometry and ICP-MS towards soil and water physicochemical properties as well as heavy metals content. This study established that laterite, sandy and acid sulphate soil differ significantly with respect to CEC, soil texture, soil colour and distribution and concentrations of heavy metals in soil and water bodies. A total 100 samples were evaluated for quantitative and qualitative physicochemical properties in 3 different types of soil, water bodies, and heavy metals. Soil colour was found to correlate with CEC and heavy metals content in both soil and water bodies. The main heavy metals group identified in laterite soil were Fe, Al, Mn and Zn whereas in sandy and acid sulphate soil only Al and Mn were detected. The ratio of these heavy metals series varies between the type of soils. CEC value was detected higher in laterite soil (9.35 to 22.85 mg/kg) whereas in sandy and acid sulphate soil CEC were found less than 10 mg/kg. On the other hand, the main heavy metals group identified in water bodies in urban lake at laterite were Fe, Al, Mn and Zn; at sandy area were Pb, Cr, Fe, Ni, Al and Cd and water bodies at acid sulphate soil area were Mn, Al, Fe and Cr. Marked differences were observed between the heavy metals content and concentration in soil and the urban lake water bodies. Therefore, heavy metals profiles of the 3 different types of soil and water bodies showed highly significant differences between the CEC, soil colour, soil texture, and all other combinations of interactions, indicating the complex nature of factors influencing water bodies composition. Reflectance colorimeter measurement of yellow-red hue component in this study confirmed that the higher the CEC content, the greater the yellow-red intensity colour and clay content. Lastly, in order to complete this study, an effective rating system using physico-chemicals properties were established to assess urban lake quality index status based on both water bodies and specific type of soil parameters influencing heavy metals composition.

## خلاصة البحث

تعتمد تقييمات جودة المياه في ماليزيا على عدة مبادئ توجيهية مثل معايير جودة مياه البحيرة الوطنية ودليل إدارة مياه العواصف الحضرية لماليزيا وأيضاً المعيار الوطني لجودة المياه. ومع ذلك، فإن هذه الإرشادات محدودة للغاية في تقييم حالة جودة المياه دون النظر إلى المساهمة المهمة التي أثرت على نوعية المياه مثل نوع التربة. والاهتمام بمشاكل التربة الناشئة، في ماليزيا، عن الكبريتات الرملية والحمضية والتربة العضوية. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن التربة هي عامل ملوث ينقل جريان المياه ويعزز مستوى السمية في المسطحات المائية والتربة. وهكذا، يهدف هذا البحث إلى تأكيد التفاعل بين قدرة تبادل الكاتيون (CEC) لثلاثة أنواع مختلفة من المشاكل التي تسببها التربة نحو جودة المياه. وتم التحقيق في العلاقة بين CEC ومؤشر جودة البحيرة الحضرية والتحقق من القياس الطيفي و ICP-MS تجاه الخصائص الفيزيائية والكيميائية للتربة والمياه وكذلك محتوى المعادن الثقيلة. وأثبت هذا البحث أن تربة الكبريتات الرملية والحمضية تختلف اختلافاً كبيراً فيما يتعلق ب CEC، وملمس التربة ولون التربة وتوزيعها وتركيزاتها المعادن الثقيلة في المسطحات المائية والتربة. وتم تقييم ما مجموعه 100 عينة للخصائص الفيزيائية والكيميائية الكمية والنوعية في ثلاثة أنواع مختلفة من التربة والمسطحات المائية والمعادن الثقيلة. وتم إثبات أن لون التربة يرتبط مع CEC ومحتوى المعادن الثقيلة في كل من التربة والمسطحات المائية. وكانت المجموعة الرئيسية للمعادن الثقيلة التي تم تحديدها في التربة غير المستصلحة هي Fe، Al، Mn، Zn، بينما في تربة الكبريتات الرملية والحمضية فقط وجد كل من ال Al، Mn. وتختلف نسبة سلسلة المعادن الثقيلة هذه حسب نوع التربة. وتم اكتشاف أن قيمة CEC أعلى في التربة غير المستصلحة والتي تتراوح بين 9.35 إلى 22.85 ملجم/كجم، بينما تكون في التربة الرملية والكبريتية الحمضية، أقل من 10 ملجم/كجم. ومن ناحية أخرى، كانت المجموعة الرئيسية للمعادن الثقيلة التي تم تحديدها في المسطحات المائية في البحيرة الحضرية في وقت لاحق هي Fe، Al، Mn، Zn؛ وفي المناطق الرملية كانت Pb و Cr و Fe و Ni، Al، Cd ووجد في المسطحات المائية في منطقة تربة الكبريتات الحمضية عناصر Cr، Fe، Al، Mn. وقد لوحظت فروق واضحة بين محتوى المعادن الثقيلة وتركيزها في التربة والمسطحات المائية في البحيرة الحضرية. ولذلك، أظهر ملامح المعادن الثقيلة للأنواع الثلاثة المختلفة من التربة والمسطحات المائية اختلافات كبيرة في كل من محتوى CEC ولون وملمس التربة وجميع مجموعات التفاعلات الأخرى، مما يشير إلى الطبيعة المعقدة للعوامل التي تؤثر على تكوين الأجسام المائية. وأكد مقياس الانعكاس لمكون الصبغة الأصفر والأحمر في هذا البحث أنه كلما زاد محتوى CEC، زادت لون كثافة اللونين الأصفر والأحمر ومحتوى الطين. وأخيراً، من أجل إكمال هذا البحث، تم إنشاء نظام تصنيف فعال يستخدم الخواص الفيزيائية والكيميائية كمؤشر لحالة جودة البحيرة الحضرية بناءً على كل من المسطحات المائية ونوع محدد من معالم التربة التي تؤثر على تكوين المعادن الثقيلة.

## **APPROVAL PAGE**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract .....	ii
Abstract in Arabic .....	iii
Approval Page.....	iv
Declaration .....	v
Copyright Page.....	vi
Acknowledgements .....	vii
List of Tables .....	xii
List of Figures .....	xv
List of Abbreviations .....	xvii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Research Background .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement and Issues .....	2
1.3 Research Goal .....	3
1.4 Reserch Objectives .....	3
1.5 Research Gap .....	3
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Water and Islamic Perspective.....	5
2.1.1 Water in Islam .....	5
2.1.2 Water is a Basis Unit for All Living Things .....	5
2.1.3 Religious Duty for Water Management.....	6
2.1.4 The Relationship of Al Darrar Yuzal in Water Issues .....	8
2.2 Water and Environmental Issues .....	10
2.2.1 Water Issues and Urban Lake .....	10
2.2.2 Point Sources Pollution .....	11
2.2.3 Non-Point Sources Pollution.....	12
2.2.4 Source of Water Pollution in Malaysia .....	12
2.2.5 Water Quality and Parameters .....	14
2.2.6 Dissolved Oxygen .....	15
2.2.7 Biochemicals Oxygen Demand.....	15
2.2.8 Chemicals Oxygen Demand.....	16
2.2.9 Ammoniacal Nitrogen .....	16
2.2.10 Suspended Solid.....	16
2.2.11 pH.....	17
2.3 Water and Soil .....	17
2.3.1 Structure of Soil .....	17
2.3.2 Soil Function and Formation.....	18
2.3.3 Soil Classification and Properties .....	20
2.3.4 Soil Standard and Guideline in Malaysia.....	21
2.3.5 Laterite Soil.....	24
2.3.6 Sandy.....	25
2.3.7 Acid Sulphate .....	26
2.4 Lake Water Quality Malaysia .....	27
2.4.1 National Lake Water Quality Criteria and Standards .....	27



2.4.2 Urban Storm Water Management Manual for Malaysia.....	31
2.4.3 National Water Quality Standard for Malaysia.....	33
<b>CHAPTER THREE: MATERIAL AND METHOD.....</b>	<b>36</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	36
3.2 Background of Research Methodology .....	36
3.3 Case Study and Sampling Design.....	37
3.3.1 Location for Laterite Soil in Peninsular Malaysia .....	37
3.3.2 Location for Sandy Soil in Peninsular Malaysia.....	38
3.3.3 Location for Acid Sulphate Soil in Peninsular Malaysia .....	39
3.4 Water Sampling and Preparation .....	40
3.5 Physico-Chemicals Analysis for Water .....	41
3.5.1 YSI Test and Analysis.....	41
3.5.2 Chemicals Oxygen Demand (COD) Test and Analysis.....	42
3.5.3 Biochemicals Oxygen Demand (BOD) Test and Analysis.....	43
3.5.4 Dilution Water Preparation Method for BOD.....	44
3.5.5 Sample Size Selection for BOD.....	44
3.5.6 Ammoniacal Nitrogen Test and Analysis.....	46
3.5.7 Total Suspended Solid Test and Analysis.....	47
3.6 Heavy Metals Concentration Analysis .....	48
3.6.1 Pre -Acid Digestion for Water .....	48
3.6.2 Pre-Acid Digestion for Soil.....	49
3.6.3 ICP- MS Analysis .....	49
3.7 Soil Sampling and Preparation .....	52
3.7.1 Soil Texture Analysis (Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 2006).....	53
3.7.2 Soil Colour Intensity by Using Munsell Soil Colour Chart .....	55
3.7.3 Soil pH Analysis .....	56
3.7.4 Total Organic Carbon Analysis (Determination of Organic Carbon by Carbon Analyser: Walkey and Black Titration Method) .....	57
3.7.5 Cation Exchange Capacity Analysis.....	58
3.8 Statistical Analysis.....	60
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: CHARACTERISATION OF LATERITE, SANDY AND ACID SULPHATE SOIL.....</b>	<b>61</b>
4.1 Objective of the Experiment.....	61
4.2 Determination of Soil Texture and Colour Intensity for Laterite Soil Area .....	61
4.3 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Soil Contains in Laterite Soil .....	63
4.4 The Relationship between Heavy Metals in Laterite Soil and Water Quality .....	64
4.5 Determination of Soil Texture and Colour Intensity for Sandy Soil Area .....	65
4.6 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Soil Contains in Sandy Soil.....	67
4.7 The Relationship between Heavy Metal in Sandy Soil and Water Quality .....	68
4.8 Determination of Soil Texture and Colour Intensity for Acid Sulphate Soil Area.....	68

4.9 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Soil Contains in Acid Sulphate Soil .....	71
4.10 The Relationship between Heavy Metals in Acid Sulphate Soil and Water Quality .....	72

**CHAPTER FIVE: WATER PHYSICO CHEMICALS PROPERTIES**

**FOR LATERITE, SANDY AND ACID SULPHATE AREA ..... 74**

5.1 Objective of the Experiment .....	74
5.2 Physico Chemicals Properties for Water at Laterite Soil Area.....	74
5.3 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Water in Laterite Soil Area .....	77
5.4 The Colleration between pH, DO % Saturation, BOD, COD, TSS and Amoniacal Nitrogen Level towards Water Quality in Laterite Soil Land Area.....	79
5.5 The Correlation between Heavy Metals and Water Quality in Laterite Soil Land Area .....	80
5.6 Physico Chemicals Properties for Water at Sandy Soil Area.....	80
5.7 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Water in Sandy Soil Area.....	82
5.8 The Relationship between pH, DO % Saturation, BOD, COD, TSS and Ammoniacal Nitrogen Level towards Water Quality Index in Sandy Soil Area.....	83
5.9 The Relationship between Heavy Metals and Water Quality in Sandy Soil Area.....	84
5.10 Physico Chemicals Properties for Water at Acid Sulphate Soil Area ..	85
5.11 Analysis of Heavy Metals for Water in Acid Sulphate Soil Area .....	87
5.12 The Relationship between pH, DO % Saturation, BOD, COD, TSS and Ammoniacal Nitrogen Level towards Water Quality Index in Acid Sulphate Soil Area. ....	88
5.13 The Relationship between Heavy Metals and Water Quality in Acid Sulphate Soil Area .....	89

**CHAPTER SIX: RELATIONSHIP OF PHYSICO CHEMICALS  
PROPERTIES OF SOIL BETWEEN CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY  
AND WATER QUALITY IN URBAN LAKE LOCATED AT LATERITE,  
SANDY AND ACID SULPHATE SOIL AREA. .... 91**

6.1 Objective of the Experiment .....	91
6.2 Analysis of pH, Organic Carbon, Calcium and Cation Exchange Capacity for Soil Properties in Laterite Soil Area.....	91
6.3 The Relationship of Soil Chemicals Properties (Calcium Content, pH, OC and CEC) and Water Quality in Laterite Soil Area .....	92
6.4 Analysis of pH Organic Carbon (OC), Calcium (Ca) and Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) for Soil Properties in Sandy Soil Area .....	93
6.5 The Relationship of Soil Chemicals Properties (Calcium Content, pH, OC and CEC) and Water Quality in Sandy Soil Area.....	95
6.6 Analysis of pH, Organic Carbon, Calcium and CEC For Soil Properties in Acid Sulphate Soil Area.....	95
6.7 The Relationship of Soil Chemicals Properties (Calcium Content, pH, OC and CEC) and Water Quality in Acid Sulphate Soil Area .....	96

<b>CHAPTER SEVEN: GENERAL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION .....</b>	<b>98</b>
7.1 Characterisation of Physico Chemicals Properties for Water and Soil in Laterite Soil Area .....	98
7.1.1 Soil Texture x Soil Colour Intensity .....	98
7.1.2 Water Quality x Heavy Metal Concentration .....	100
7.1.3 Soil Physico –Chemicals Properties x Heavy Metals Contain x Water Quality .....	101
7.2 Characterisation of Physico Chemicals Properties for Water and Soil in Sandy Soil Area.....	103
7.2.1 Soil Texture x Soil Colour Intensity .....	103
7.2.2 Water Quality x Heavy Metal Concentration .....	104
7.2.3 Soil Physico –Chemicals Properties x Heavy Metals Contain x Water Quality .....	106
7.3 Characterisation of Physico Chemicals Properties for Water and Soil in Acid Sulphate Soil Area .....	108
7.3.1 Soil Texture x Soil Colour Intensity .....	108
7.3.2 Water Quality x Heavy Metal Concentration .....	110
7.3.3 Soil Physico –Chemicals Properties x Heavy Metals Contain x Water Quality .....	112
7.4 General Recommendation .....	113
7.5 Proposed Urban Lake Quality Rating System .....	114
7.6 Conclusion .....	120
 <b>REFERENCES.....</b>	 <b>122</b>
 APPENDIX 1: SURVEY MAP BY AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.....	 130
APPENDIX 2: ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE FOR LATERITE AREA .....	131
APPENDIX 3: ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE FOR SANDY AREA.....	137
APPENDIX 4: ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE FOR ACID SULPHATE AREA.....	143

## LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>		<u>Page No.</u>
2.1	The Description of Soil Horizon for Each Layer	21
2.2	Standard of Heavy Metal Limit in Soil (mg/L) from the Department of Environment, Malaysia 2009 (Sakawi et al., 2013)	22
2.3	Standard Concentration for the Most Hazardous Heavy Metals (Barakat, 2011)	23
2.4	Description of Lake Categories	28
2.5	The Measurement Parameter for Heavy Metals Concentration for Lake Water Quality Criteria and Standard	29
2.6	The Measurement Parameter for National Lake Water Quality Criteria and Standards According to Categories	30
2.7	Generation Potentials of Pollutants based on Various Landuses	32
2.8	Estimated Pollutant Values for Selected Landuses	32
2.9	Parameter used in National Water Quality Standard for Malaysia	33
2.10	Additional parameter used in National Water Quality Standard for Malaysia	34
3.1	Selected Laterite Soil Area in Peninsular Malaysia	38
3.2	Selected Sandy Soil Area Peninsular Malaysia	39
3.3	Selected Acid Sulphate Soil Area Peninsular Malaysia	40
3.4	Minimum Sample Volume	45
3.5	Temperature, Power, and Time Setting on Micro Digester Method for Water Sample	48
3.6	Temperature, Power, and Time Setting on Micro Digester Method for Soil Sample	49
3.7	The Scale of Concentration between the Volume of Stock Needed for Preparing Stock Solution	49
3.8	The Formula for Soil Texture Calculation (Forest Research Institute Malaysia, 2006)	55

4.1	Soil Fraction for Overall Laterite Soil Land Area	62
4.2	The Assessment of Soil Colour Intensity Using Munsell Color Chart at Laterite Land Area	63
4.3	The Analysis of Heavy Metals Concentration for Soil at Laterite Land Area	64
4.4	Soil Fraction for Overall Sandy Soil Land Area	65
4.5	The Assessment of Soil Colour Intensity Using Munsell Color Chart at Sandy Land Area	66
4.6	The Analysis of Heavy Metals Concentration for Soil at Sandy Land Area	67
4.7	Soil Fraction for Overall Acid Sulphate Soil Land Area	70
4.8	The Assessment of Soil Colour Intensity Using Munsell Color Chart at Acid Sulphate Land Area	71
4.9	The Analysis of Heavy Metals Concentration for Soil at Acid Sulfate Land Area	72
5.1	Mean, Range and SD for Water Quality Index Parameter for 10 Sampling Locations for Laterite Soil Area.	75
5.2	The Analysis of Heavy Metals Concentration in Water Sample for Laterite Land Area	77
5.3	Mean, SD Analysis for Analysis of Heavy Metal in Water at 10 Sampling Locations for Sandy Soil Area	81
5.4	Mean, Range, and SD for Water Quality Index Parameter for 10 Sampling Locations for Sandy Soil Area.	83
5.5	Mean, Range and SD for Water Quality Index Parameter for 10 Sampling Locations for Acid Sulphate Soil Area	86
5.6	Mean and SD for Heavy Metals Concentration in Water for Acid Sulphate Soil Area	88
6.1	The Analysis Properties for Soil at Laterite Land Area	92
6.2	The Analysis Properties for Soil at Sandy Land Area	94
6.3	The Analysis Properties for Soil at Acid Sulphate Land Area	96
7.1	Mean Value of Soil Texture Particles in Laterite Soil	98
7.2	The Result of Soil Colour Intensity for Laterite Soil	99

7.3	The Average Value for Physico Chemicals Properties for Water at Laterite Soil Area	100
7.4	The Overall Result of Water Chemicals Properties for Laterite Land Area	101
7.5	The Overall Mean Value for Physico Properties for Laterite Soil	102
7.6	The Overall Result of Soil Chemicals Properties for Laterite Soil	102
7.7	Mean Value of Soil Texture Particles in Sandy Soil	103
7.8	The Result of Soil Colour Intensity for Sandy Soil	104
7.9	Average and SD for Water Quality Index Parameter for Sandy Soil Area	105
7.10	The Overall Result of Water Chemicals Properties for Sandy	106
7.11	The Overall Mean Value for Physico Properties for Sandy Soil	107
7.12	The Overall Result of Soil Chemicals Properties for Sandy Soil	108
7.13	Mean Value of Soil Texture Particles in Acid Sulphate Soil	109
7.14	The Result of Soil Colour Intensity for Sandy Soil	109
7.15	The Overall Result of Water Chemicals Properties for Acid Sulphate	110
7.16	The Overall Result of Water Chemicals Properties for Acid Sulphate Land Area	111
7.17	The Overall Mean Value for Physico Properties for Acid Sulphate	113
7.18	The Overall Result of Soil Chemicals Properties for Acid Sulphate	113
7.19	Urban Lake Quality Index Values Based on Water Physico Chemicals Properties and Soil Physico Chemicals Properties for Laterite Land Area	117
7.20	Urban Lake Quality Index Values Based on Water Physico Chemicals Properties and Soil Physico Chemicals Properties for Sandy Land Area	118
7.21	Urban Lake Quality Index Values Based on Water Physico Chemicals Properties and Soil Physico Chemicals Properties Acid Sulphate Land Area	119

## LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure No.</u>		<u>Page No.</u>
2.1	The Light of Maqasid Shariah (Chapra et al., 2008)	9
2.2	Percentage of BOD Loading by Water Pollution in 2014 (Malaysia Environmental Quality Report, 2014)	13
2.3	Ammoniacal Nitrogen Loading in Water Pollution Resources (Malaysia Environmental Quality Report, 2014)	13
2.4	Suspended Solid Loading in Water Pollution Resources (Malaysia Environmental Quality Report, 2014)	14
2.5	Water Quality Index Formula and Calculation. (Malaysia Environmental Quality Report, 2014)	15
2.6	The Triangular Coordinate in Soil Structure (Nyle & Ray, 2002)	17
2.7	The Illustration of Pores between the Aggregates	18
2.8	Soil Functionality (Lal, 2016)	19
2.9	The Sequence of Soil Horizon Used for Each Layer (Singer, 2017)	20
3.1	YSI 5556 MPS (Multiprobe System)	42
3.2	DRB 200 Reactor and COD Digestion Reagents Vials	43
3.3	Dissolved Oxygen Meter That Were Used to Measured BOD for Five Days of Incubation	44
3.4	DR2800 Were Used to Measure the Concentration of Ammoniacal Nitrogen in Water Sample	47
3.5	One Litre Volume of Water Were Filtered through Whatman Filter Paper	47
3.6	The Dashboard Nexion Instrument Control Session that is Included in the Software of a Well-Designed ICP-MS	51
3.7	The Flow of Optimization Check	52
3.8	Sampling Strategy and Design for Water and Soil Sampling Each of Selected Area	52
3.9	The Condition of Heating the Sample on the Waterbath	53

3.10	The Process of Separation of Soil Particles in Cylinder and Dish before Entering the Oven	54
3.11	The Sample in the Dish Were Dried in an Oven at 105°C	54
3.12	Munsell Soil Colour Chart Book	56
3.13	The pH Meter to Measure The Soil pH	57
3.14	Equipment Set Up for TOC Analysis	58
3.15	Equipment Set Up for Soil CEC Analysis	60
4.1	Distributions of Soil Texture Particles in Laterite Soil Land Area	62
4.2	Distribution of Soil Texture Particles in Sandy Soil Land Area	65
4.3	Distribution of Course Sand was High in Acid Sulphate Soil Sample	69
7.1	The Flow of Development of Urban Lake Quality Rating System	116



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percent
ml	Mililitre
<	Less than
ICP-MS	Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry
>	More than
°C	Degree celcius
Kg	Kilogram
Al	Aluminium
L	Liter
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
mg/kg	Milligram perkilogram
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
mg/L	Miligram perliter
Mg	Magnesium
Cd	Cadmium
CEC	Cation exchange capacity
Mn	Manganese
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
Cr	Chromium
Cu	Copper
DO	dissolved oxygen
NH <sub>3</sub> N	Ammoniacal Nitrogen
Ni	Nickel
Fe	Iron
Pb	Lead
pH	Power of hydrogen
HNO <sub>3</sub>	Nitric acid
USEPA	United States Environmental Policy Agency
HCL	Hydrochloric acid
QC	Quality control
Zn	Zinc
NAHRIM	National Institute of Hyraulic Research Malaysia
DOE	Department of Environment
NWQS	National Water Quality Index
ULQI	Urban Lake Quality Index
SS	Suspended Solid
MPS	Multiprobe System
us/cm	microSiemens per sentimetre
TDS	Total Dissolved Solid
BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD value from the 5 day test
PFA	peruoroalkoxy polymer
Co	Cobalt
Ni	Nickle
QC	Quality Control
ppb	Part per billion

mm	millimetre
MS	Malaysia Standard
FAS	Ferrous Ammonium Sulphates
g	Gram
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
CEC	Cation Exchange Capacity
K	Kalium
Ca	Calcium
K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Pottasium Sulfate
TSS	Total Suspended Solid
YR	Yellow Red
WQI	Water Quality Index
OC	Organic Carbon
Y	Yellow
*	Highly significant
cmol/kg	centimol per kilogram

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

A good environmental management in gaining Allah blessings is one of the core concepts in shariah compliance in built environment and encompasses the way of life in Islam. It also covers the method and system developed in water quality monitoring as to minimize the adverse impact on our natural resources especially waters that take over 75 % area of the earth. Shariah compliance and good environmental management are very deep and long standing connections between faith as well as our role as stewards of the earth. As mentioned in the Quran:

“It is He (Allah) that has appointed you (mankind) as inheritors in the Earth...”

(Qu’rán, 35:39)

Identifying the environmental impact into account and the way to mitigate the corruption appeared must be a concern as a moral duty with the concept of environmental stewardship to uphold the human relationship to the natural habitat (Posas, 2007).

As Malaysia is actively growing to become an industrial country, many water bodies are rapidly turning into a wastebasket for chemicals, sewage disposal, and pollutants too. About 60% of the 90 selected lakes and reservoirs were eutrophic and primarily contain nitrates and phosphates resulted from runoff fertilizers and pesticide use in agriculture point sources (Sharip & Suratman, 2017). These substances are believed to be channelled constantly to the water bodies and then transmitted into organic and inorganic particles, nutrients, pesticides and herbicides which directly affect the aquatic ecosystem. In fact, the water contaminants do not only harm aquatic

ecosystem, it also influences the water safety for human use as well. Soil properties are significant subject that connected to hydrological composition through transmission of physico-chemical properties from soil to water bodies.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT AND ISSUES**

There were three major issues that affecting the urban lake status in Malaysia. The first issue is, National Institute of Hydraulic Research Malaysia reported that more than 60% lakes from 90 numbers that were reviewed experiencing eutrophication. The source of pollutant generally transmitted from manmade surface run off in urban area and also natural surface run off such as soil as a medium to channel the pollutants into the water body. The second issue is regarding the anthropogenic source of contaminants. According to Malaysia Environmental Quality Report, the most influenced source of water pollution in Malaysia was recorded from suspended solid (SS), ammoniacal nitrogen ( $\text{NH}_3\text{N}$ ) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). Another important issue is regarding the naturogenic influences. According to Department of Agricultural Malaysia 53% was categorized as suitable type of soil and another 47% was categorized as unsuitable soil that includes peat, acid sulphate soil, sandy beach ridges, sand tailing and steep land. Variety of soil type in Malaysia has contributed to the difference of soil properties dissolved in the water and the concern of soil problem in Malaysia involving from laterite, sandy, acid sulphate and organic soil type (Radzi, 2014). According to the review, laterite soil has covered 46% soil problem area in Malaysia, followed by organic soil 21%, acid sulphate soil 18%, and sandy soil 15%.

Soil is a transmitting agent of soil movement from the water run off to the water body. To assess the level of water quality, there are many factors need to be measured which related to the water quality standard. However, Malaysia has limited,

less comprehensive references, no specific national standard or index, no policy and recommended from agencies, no accessibility data and no enforcement in evaluating urban lake water quality for specific soil area.

### **1.3 RESEARCH GOAL**

To assess Urban Lake Water Quality and physico chemicals properties at laterite, sandy and acid sulphate soil land area.

### **1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- a) To identify the soil character and soil problem in Malaysia
- b) to characterise water and soil physico-chemical properties of the urban lake located at laterite, sandy and acid sulphate soil area
- c) To evaluate the relationship of cation exchange capacity and water quality in urban lake located at laterite, sandy and acid sulphate soil area.

### **1.5 RESEARCH GAP**

In Malaysia, evaluating the water quality status for urban lake using specific type of soil has never been tested. Moreover, the existing guideline such as National Lake Water Quality Index Criteria and Guideline, Urban Stormwater Management Manual for Malaysia and National Water Quality Index Standard never used the combination of soil properties factor and water quality parameter in measuring water quality status. In addition, it has open as a new niche area in evaluating urban lake water quality status by discovering the two significant factors which were water and soil physico chemicals properties for urban lake assessment. According to Sharip & Zakaria (2008), National Hydraulic Research Malaysia has reported urban lake pollution in

Malaysia has been a great growing concern to the community and environmental sustainability. Therefore, this research will focus on the urban lake area to be as a case study as it is closely connected to community and the selected area will be focusing on the three type of soil problem in Malaysia which are laterite soil, sandy soil and acid sulphate soil area for further assessment on urban lake quality as well as physico chemicals properties that contributes to the status of urban lake quality.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 WATER AND ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE**

##### **2.1.1 Water in Islam**

Islam had accredited water as a basis of life-giving for a whole universe system. This is based on some evidence that has been emphasized in the Quran that mentioned the important aspects of water.

Allah S.W.T has created all living things in a perfect way which has been mentioned in the Quran in Surah "Al Anbiya" verses 30:

" Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together, before we clove them asunder ? We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?"

(Quran, 21:30)

##### **2.1.2 Water is a Basis Unit for All Living Things**

In that verse, Allah S.W.T has mentioned on the creation of heaven and earth as one entity but had separated by the water in order to produce living things. Al Quran has advanced knowledge about the universe before the scientist found it. In fact, why do water is consider as one of the renewable resources? This is to show that, this resource is significant to ensure the survival of the on-going process of the living things. For instance, in Surah Al Nahl verse 10, mentioned that Allah has created the water as a drinking water for human, animals, and growing plants:

"It is He who sends down rain from the sky; from it is drink and grows the vegetation on which to feet your cattle."

(Quran, 16:10)

Besides, it also to nourish the earth in order to have a balanced ecosystem as mentioned in Surah Al Rum verse 24:

“And of His signs is [that] He shows you the lightning by way of fear and hope, and He sends down rain from the sky and with it gives life to the earth after it is dead. Verily that are sign for those who are wise.”

(Quran, 30:24)

On the other hand, water is also can be as a cleansing agent for physical, spiritual, and religious need. It has been mentioned in Surah Al Mudathhir verse 4:

“Keep free from stain”

(Quran, 74:4)

Hence, it is important to ensure the quality of water is preserving as what Allah gift to us.

### **2.1.3 Religious Duty for Water Management**

Water is a medium of understanding, faith and wisdom and a key to the practice of Islam physically and spiritually. It is important to show how our path of Islam protecting and cherishing the planet (Abdul Matin & Elisson , 2010). Water transfixes us with its beauty and frightens us with its awesome powers of destruction that prove constant and reliable sign of the creator. Across the Islamic Jurisprudence aspect, water is a vital element that privileges all the living things. In fact, Al Qardawi has come out the principles of Islamic Jurisprudent regarding the environment that associated with water by the Quran with five component which are *Tashjir and Takhdir* (Planting and Greening), *'Imarah and Tathmir* (Sustainable Development), *Nazafah and Tathir* (Cleanliness and purification ), natural resources and biodiversity conservation and health sustenance as cited in Istajib & Abdullah (2014).