



THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

ICMNS 2016

ON THE ROAD TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

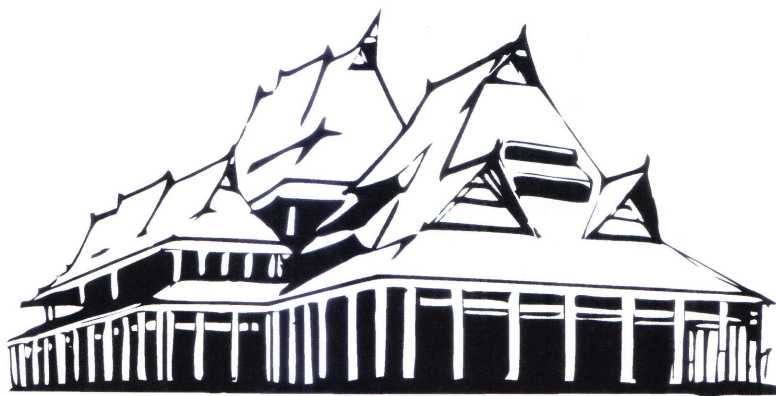
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INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI BANDUNG
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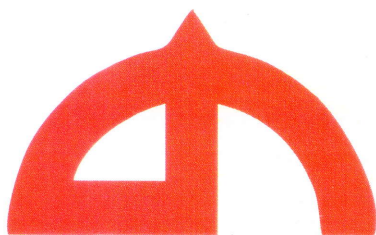
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY
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Welcoming Remarks

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I am very delighted to welcome all honorable speakers and participants to the 6th International Conference on Mathematics and Natural Sciences at ITB. It is wonderful to have over 400 speakers and participants representing various universities, research institutes, government agencies, and industries from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Australia, The Netherlands, Germany, and Kazakhstan.

We are very grateful to the Steering Committee who has provided tremendous supports and allowed us to develop an engaging program for this conference. The conference program will feature a Nobel Laureate Lecture, plenary sessions, parallel sessions, and poster sessions.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all honourable invited speakers who will share their knowledge and experiences of the frontiers research and recent developments in the field of chemistry, physics, mathematics, material science, computational science, medical and pharmaceutical sciences, life sciences, environmental sciences, science of renewable energy, as well as earth and space sciences.

We greatly thank the Scientific Committee who has done a terrific job in evaluating and selecting over 300 abstracts. We would like to express our great appreciation to the participants who will share their work in the parallel and poster sessions. Our very special thank goes to all moderators for their valuable time to chair the conference sessions.

We have been very fortunate to have a generous support from our sponsors to this conference. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to PT Anugerah Inti Mulia, PT Bio Farma, PT Cayapata Citra Kemika, PT Seger Agro Nusantara, PT Teknolab, PT Unggul Cipta Teknologi, PT Kaltim Satria Samudra, PT Pupuk Kaltim, PT Paragon, PT ANTAM, IA Kimia ITB, BNI PTB, and LPPM ITB.

We hope that you will enjoy these two days of excellent talks and poster presentations, have stimulating discussions and build strong networks. Finally, we sincerely thank for your memorable contribution and participation in the 6th ICMNS.

Dessy Natalia

The 6th ICMNS Organizing Committee
Chairperson

Welcoming Remarks

It is our great pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to The 6th International Seminar on Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The 6th ICMNS is organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and supported by School of Pharmacy and School of Life Sciences and Technology ITB. This year conference is very special because it marks a decade of the biannual ICMNS which has been established since 2006.

This conference aims to disseminate research results in the fields of chemistry, physics, mathematics, material science, computational science, medical and pharmaceutical sciences, life sciences, environmental science, science of renewable energy, as well as earth and space sciences. In addition, the conference is also set up to promote multi- and inter-disciplinary researches in various domains of science and technology. Therefore, we hope that the intensive interactions among all distinguished speakers, presenters and participants will foster the advancement of science and technology which is essential to support sustainable development.

We are very honored to have Prof. Gerard 't Hooft, the 1999 Nobel Laureate in Physics, in this conference. Prior to the conference day, Prof. 't Hooft has delivered a series of lectures to ITB and Physics communities, and after this conference he will give a Grand Public Lecture entitled "A Road to Nobel Prize". The 6th ICMNS participants are welcome to join the Grand Public Lecture, which is going to be held on 4 November, 2016.

We would like to express our gratitude to all distinguished speakers, presenters and participants. We also sincerely thank the Steering Committee, the Scientific Committee, the Organizing Committee and all Sponsors for their great efforts and contributions to make this conference possible.

We wish you all having a fruitful and enjoyable conference.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOMING REMARKS.....	II
WELCOMING REMARKS.....	III
COMMITTEES.....	IV
MAP OF ITB	VI
PROGRAM SCHEDULE	VII
PLENARY SESSIONS.....	IX
INVITED SPEAKER.....	XI
PARALLEL SESSIONS.....	I
TOPIC: CHEMISTRY (CHM)	I
TOPIC: COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE (CPS).....	IV
TOPIC: EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES (ESS).....	VI
TOPIC: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (EVS)	IX
TOPIC: LIFE SCIENCES (LSC)	XII
TOPIC: MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (MPH)	XVII
TOPIC: MATERIAL SCIENCE (MSC).....	XVIII
TOPIC: MATHEMATICS (MTH).....	XXI
TOPIC: PHYSICS (PHY)	XXIV
TOPIC: SCIENCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY (SRE)	XXIX
POSTERS	XXX
TABLE OF CONTENTS	XXXVIII
PLENARY AND INVITED SESSIONS	1
[Nobel Laureate Lecture] The Standard Model and Beyond	
Gerard 't Hooft The 1999 Nobel Laureate for Physics	2
[PLE-A1] Understanding of Drug Resistance and Pathogenicity of Opportunistic Fungi	
Susumu Kajiwara	3
[PLE-A2] Crystal Structure of a Human Tyrosinase Homologue Reveals an Active Site With a Type 3 Zinc-Binding Site and Provides a Structural Explanation for Albinism Causing Mutations	
Xuelei Lai ^{1,2} , Montserrat Soler-Lopez ² , Harry J. Wichers ³ and Bauke W. Dijkstra ¹	4
[PLE-A3] From Metallic Gyroid Structures to Piezoelectric Nanoporous Networks	
Katja Loos	5
[PLE-A4] Time-Resolved Spontaneous Raman Scattering	
Jingyi Zhu, Rolf B. Versteeg, Christoph Boguschewski, and Paul H. M. van Loosdrecht	6

[PLE-A5] Drug-Resistant Pathogens: A Challenge to Global Malaria and Other Mosquito-Borne Diseases Control Program	
Dien Syafruddin	7
[PLE-A6] Biophysics in Computational Science	
Kazutomo Kawaguchi, Satoshi Nakagawa, Makoto Wada, Arwansyah Muhammad Saleh, Kruniawan Isman, Koichi Kodama, Hidemi Nagao.....	8
[PLE-B1] Kyoto Optical and Near Infrared 3.8 M Telescope	
Mikio Kurita	9
[PLE-B2] The Story of Modelling Ionization of Atoms by Electron Impact	
Andris T. Stelbovics	10
[PLE-B3] Multiferroic Properties of Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Compounds	
Thomas T.M. Palstra.....	11
[PLE-B4] π-Conjugated Polymers Possessing Unique Elements-Blocks	
Ikuyushi Tomita	12
[PLE-B5] Redefinition Output on Input-Output Linearization for Output Tracking of Non-Minimum Phase Nonlinear Systems	
Janson Naiborhu.....	13
[INV-01] Local Structure Investigation of Tetraphenylporphyrin: Ab Initio Calculations of Its Dimer and Spectroscopic Approaches	
Veinardi Suendo*, Nurhayati, Phutri Milana, Erna Febriyanti, and Yana Maolana Syah	14
[INV-02] Extracting Diffuse Interstellar Bands from Cool Star Spectra	
L. Puspitarini ^{1*} , R. Lallement ² , H.-C. Chen ³ , A. Monreal-Ibero ³	15
[INV-03] Role of Monascus and Neurosporin Pharmacy : Their Metabolites as Active Ingredients and Excipients	
Marlia Singgih, Elin Julianti.....	16
[INV-04] Herbal Fingerprint for Authentication and Quantification: an Increasing Indonesian Herbal Medicine Standardization	
I Made Agus Gelgel Wirasuta	17
[INV-05] The Development of Therapeutic Antibodies Against Dengue	
Guntur Fibriansyah.....	18
[INV-06] Hydrothermal Carbonization of Seaweed for Biochar Production	
Rima Y Nurastuti, Meiti Pratiwi, Gede Suantika, Ronny Purwadi and Tirto Prakoso*	19
[INV-07] Multilevel Krylov Methods: Analysis and Applications	
Yogi Ahmad Erlangga.....	20

[INV-08] Functionalization of Magnetite Photocatalyst Nanocomposite as Wastewater Treatment and Renewable Energy Materials	
Nandang Mufti	21
[INV-09] Urban Physics and Its Implementation in Predicting Economic Growth Related to High Speed Train Development	
Acep Purqon, Sparisoma Viridi	22
[INV-10] Nano Plasmonics for Optical Sensing	
Alexander A. Iskandar	23
[INV-11] Exploring and Exploiting Indonesian Hepatitis B Virus for Generating Independence Vaccine	
Ernawati Arifin Giri Rahman ¹ and Neni Nurainy ²	24
[INV-12] Enhancing Bioremediation Process by Increasing Bio-availability of the Contaminant (Case: Crude Oil Contaminated Soil Bioremediation)	
Agus Jatnika Efendi	25
ORAL PRESENTATIONS	26
[O-CHM-01] Metabolic Changes of Medicinal Cannabis Trichomes During Flowering Period Analyzed With 1H NMR-Based Metabolomics: Variety Bedrobinol	
Nizar Happyana ^{1,2*} , Oliver Kayser ²	27
[O-CHM-02] Cloning Gene and Structural Prediction of Phospholipase B from Pseudomonas Stutzeri BK-AB12	
Suci Rizki Nurul Aeni ^{1*} , Mukhammad Asy'ari ² , Rukman Hertadi ³	28
[O-CHM-03] Cloning and Sequencing of the Phospholipase A1 Gene of Halomonas Elongata BK-AB8 and Its Structural Prediction	
Ira Prima Sari and Rukman Hertadi	29
[O-CHM-04] Overexpression of Haloacid Dehalogenase Gene from Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Local Strain and Prediction the Secondary Structure of the Enzyme	
Nurlaida*, Lousiana Dwinta Utami, Enny Ratnaningsih	30
[O-CHM-05] Synthesis and Optimization of Sulfonated Polyaniline and Its Application as Counter Electrode in Dye Sensitized Solar Cell	
Muhammad Reza ¹ , Fauziah Nurfalah ¹ , and Veinardi Suendo ^{1,2}	31
[O-CHM-06] Degradation of Yellow-GCN by Photolysis With Solar Irradiation Using Dip Coating C-N-codoped TiO₂ Catalyst	
Safni Safni ^{1*} , Deliza ¹ , Diana Vanda Wellia ² , Puti Sri Komala ³ , Hasnah Ulia ¹	32
[O-CHM-07] Synthesis of [Mn(salen)Cl].2H₂O Complex Compound and Superoxide Dismutase Activity Determination Through Non-Enzymatic in Vitro	

Yusi Deawati ^{1,2*} , Djulia Onggo ¹ , Irma Mulyani ¹ , Iwan Hastiawan ² , Dikdik Kurnia ³	33
[O-CHM-08] Effect of pH and concentration of Ionic Strength Adjuster to Ion Selective Electrode performance Nd(III) with Sebacylbis(1-phenyl-3-methyl-5-pyrazolone (H2SbBP) as Ionophores Husain Sosidi ^{1*} , Buchari Buchari ² , Indra Noviandri ²	34
[O-CHM-09] Determination of Species Antimony (Sb (III) and Sb (V)) Using the Techniques Hydride Generation - Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (HG-AAS) Herlinawati ¹ , B. Buchari ² , and M. Bachri Amran ¹	35
[O-CHM-10] Study of Optoelectronic Properties of Polyaniline/Carbon Materials Blends as Counter Electrodes in DSSC (Dye-Sensitized Solar Cell) Alvin Tanudjaja ¹ and Veinardi Suendo ^{1,2*}	36
[O-CHM-11] Profiles of Photosynthetic Pigments Produced by the Tropical Marine Navicula Sp. Cultivated in Two Extremely Different Light-Stress Conditions Ivonne Telussa, Zeily Nurachman	37
[O-CHM-12] Smart Extraction and Detection of Dioxins from Soil Sample Using Pressure Liquid Extraction (PLE)-Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry/ Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS/MS) Shohifah Annur ¹ , Sri Juari Santosa ² , Nurul Hidayat Aprilita ² , Nina Arlofa ¹	38
[O-CHM-13] Synthesis and Characterization of Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) (PMMA) Nanofiber by Electrospinning Ervin Tri Suryandari ¹ , M.A. Zulfikar ² , Rino R. Mukti ³ , and M. Nasir ⁴	39
[O-CHM-14] Dynamics of Neutral Lipids Accumulation of the Tropical Marine Diatom Thalassiosira Sp. Under Outdoors Cultivation Conditions Pintaka Kusumaningtyas, Gede Suantika, Santi Nurbaiti, Zeily Nurachman	40
[O-CHM-15] Effect of (Monomer – Cross-Linker – Initiator) Composition at Polymer Synthesis for Retention Catechin and Its Derivatives Untung Triadhi, Muhammad Ali Zulfikar, and Muhammad Bachri Amran	41
[O-CHM-16] Effect of Various Solvent on the Synthesis of ZnO Nanoparticles by Sol-Gel Process Sherly Kasuma Warda Ningsih [*] , Miftahul Khair, and Silvi Veronita	42
[O-CHM-17] Enzymatic Synthesis of 2,5-Furandicarboxylic Acid-Based Semi-Aromatic Polyamides: Enzymatic Polymerization Kinetics, Effect of Diamine Chain Length and Thermal Properties Dina Maniar, Yi Jiang, Albert J. J. Woortman and Katja Loos	43
[O-CHM-18] The Effect of Addition of Water and Calcination in the Sample Preparation of Silica-Titania to the Formation of Titanium Tetrahedral Coordination Umar Kalmar Nizar and Hadi Nur	44

[POS-069] Cloning and Purification of Norovirus P Particle and in Silico Study of Chimeric P Domain Fused with HBV Antigen as an Intranasal Hepatitis B Vaccine Candidate Tina Lusiany ¹ , Meliawati Poniman ¹ , Stephanie Lie ¹ , Debbie Soefie Retnoningrum ² , Rukman Hertadi ³ , Lijuan Yuan ⁴ , Ernawati Arifin Giri-Rachman ¹	304
[POS-070] Simultaneous as say of Sulfadiazine and Trimethoprim in Plasma by High Performance Liquid Chromatography: Application for Pharmacokinetic Study in Chickens Asyarie S. ¹ , Ummah C.D.K. ² , Nugrahani I. ² , Anindyajati ¹ , Adiwidjaja J. ¹ , Dermawan G. ¹	305
[POS-071] Biosynthesis and Characterization of Bioplastic Polyhydroxybutyrate from Halophilic Bacterium Halomonas Elongata BK-AB8 Rachmawati ¹ , Wendi Falahuddin ² , Rukman Hertadi ^{2*}	306
[POS-072] Preparation of TiO₂ Nanorods (NRs) - ZnO Composite for Dye Sensitized Solar Cell Photoanodes Ganjar Fadillah ¹ , Uswatul Chasanah ² , Sayekti Wahyuningsih ² , Ari Handono Ramelan ³	307
[POS-073] The Effect of Aluminum Concentrations on AZO Seed Layer for ZnO-Nanorods Growth and Their Application as Al Doped ZnO/ZnO-Nrs/TiO₂ Photoanodes in QS-DSSC Annisa Aprilia ¹ , Lusi Safriani ¹ , Ayi Bahtiar ¹ , Afifah N ¹ , Ayunita C. Celline ¹ , Rahmat Hidayat ² , Fitrilawati ¹ , Norman Syakir ¹ , R. E Siregar ¹	308
[POS-074] Synthesis of Polyacrylonitrile (PAN)-Zeolite Hybrid and Its Application as Adsorbent for the Removal of Pb²⁺ T. Puspitasari ^{1,2} , C.L. Radiman ¹ , R.R. Mukti ^{1,3} , D. Darwis ²	309
[POS-075] Atmospheric Corrosion to Steel Pile on Meulaboh and Pipeline Structure Along Riau-Jambi Area Budi L. Hakim ¹ , Handoko Subawi ²	310
[POS-076] Three Phase Versus Four Phase Traffic Regulations at Taman Sari – Baltos Intersection Michiko M. Noor, S.R. Pudjaprasetya	311
[POS-077] Effects of Dielectric Permittivity on the Energy Profiles of LDOS Around a Metal Nanosphere Anna Fitriana , Alexander A. Iskandar	312
[POS-078] Optical Sensing Performance of an Ag Nanorod with Off-Axis Dielectric Core Suhandoko D. Isro, Alexander A. Iskandar *	313

**From Lab to Field:
Enhancing Bioremediation Process by Increasing Bioavailability of
the Contaminant
(Case: Crude Oil Contaminated Soil Bioremediation)**

Agus Jatnika Effendi
Faculty of Civil & Environmental Engineering – ITB
Paper of Invited Speaker on
6th International Conference on Mathematics & Natural Sciences
Bandung, 3 November 2016

Abstract

Treating oil-contaminated soil using biological process (bioremediation) is basically a matter of biological process application in solid phase. The limitation of such process in most cases are caused by poor mass transfer and poor contact between substrate (pollutant) and biomass (bacteria). However, a low bioavailability of the contaminant, not only because of poor mixing, but also due to complexity and solubility of the contaminant, resulted in a very slow process of bioremediation. It is common that bacterial population capable of degrading specific pollutant in the environment very low in concentration. From this point of view there is always a chance to enhance the speed of biological process that is by increasing the concentration of biomass. By increasing the bioavailability of the contaminant and at the same time by optimizing the environmental condition such as porosity and hydraulic conductivity, it is expected to increase biomass concentration in oil-contaminated soil site resulting in faster bioremediation process. Some efforts had been made such as by the addition of surfactant to create micelle oil that can be easily attacked by microorganisms. Also, by combining with oxidants, such as Hydrogen Peroxide (H_2O_2) and Sodium Percarbonate that are expected to increase the bioavailability of oil-contaminated soil by oxidizing complex hydrocarbons into simpler forms that are going to be easily degraded by bacteria. This paper will demonstrate the preliminary efforts that had been made to increase the bio-availability of crude oil contaminated soil (COCS).

Keywords: bioremediation, bio-availability, surfactant, oxidants

Introduction

Remediation required when contamination occurred unintentionally. To prevent further transmission to the receptor (via 3 portal of entry: dermal absorption (because of direct contact), inhalation due to blowing dust and volatilization and ingestion via drinking water or food) as shown in figure 1, the contaminated site must be cleaned up, either in-situ or ex-situ (which means excavation will be required).

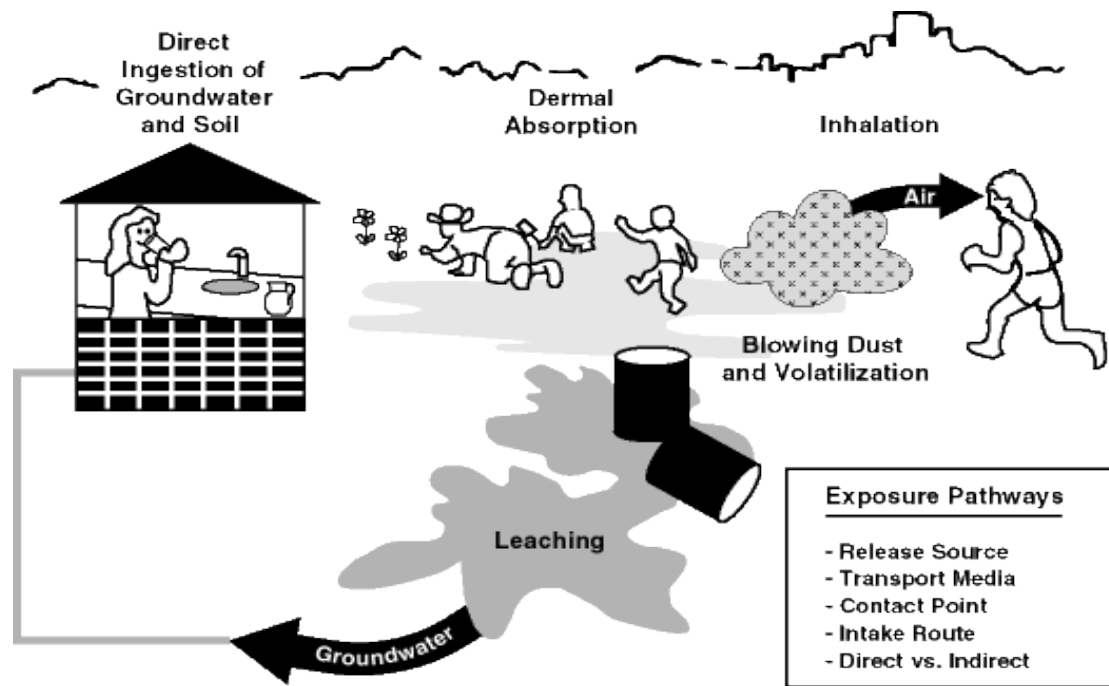


FIGURE 1 Major Exposure Pathways for Human Exposure to Contaminated Soils and Sediments. SOURCE: EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals website (www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/prg).

Various remediation techniques have been developed to restore soil contaminated by various types of contaminants in an effort to minimize the negative impact on living things. Various remediation techniques of contaminated soils that are quite popular and have been widely used and proven to be an appropriate technology are (1) Soil Vapor Extraction, (2) soil washing, (3) stabilization / solidification, (4) electrokinetic remediation, (5) thermal desorption, (6) vitrification, (7) bioremediation and (8) phytoremediation (Sharma & Reddy, 2004). All of these techniques can be applied both in-situ and ex-situ with various modifications that will involve physical, chemical, thermal, electrical and biological processes.

Although there are many technology options available, the main alternative in choosing remediation technology is natural attenuation which is intended if the pollution that occurs has the potential for degradation, by naturally occurring microorganisms. This approach is the most less intervention approach compared to other technologies, so that it is in line with the goal of environmental remediation that is to return the polluted soil to the reference condition. In general, the bioremediation approach is the most economical technology when compared to other technologies, especially if the pollution is dominated by organic compounds and the soil has sufficient hydraulic conductivity to deliver nutrients and oxygen supply. According to some sources, the cost of the remediation process is in the range of USD30-USD750 per cubic yard.

Factors affecting the bioremediation process

Some factors that could affect the successful of bioremediation of contaminated soil process are as follows:

- Environmental factor; namely the factors that will affect the optimum conditions of microorganism growth achieved so that the bioremediation process can run well.

These factors include temperature, pH, availability of nutrients, oxygen as an electron acceptor and also soil moisture (can also be expressed as water content). Soil bacteria that generally exist in Indonesia, will work optimally at neutral pH and temperature in the range of 20-40°C. Soil moisture is also an important parameter because bacteria will take nutrients for growth from solution, but if the humidity is too high it will cause low oxygen availability as electron acceptors due to low oxygen solubility in water. The water content should be maintained in the range of 15-20% so that oxygen will remain available in the air trapped in soil pores.

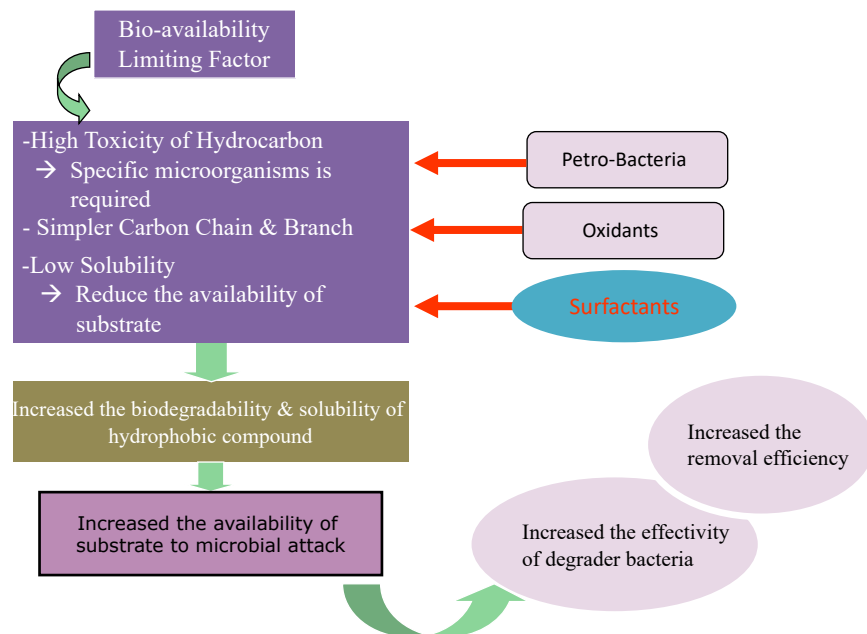
- Physical factors; The most important physical factor for the bioremediation process to occur is bioavailability of contaminants, adequate presence of water & adequate electron acceptor supply. Hydrocarbons are generally non-polar compounds, so they tend to be in a solid phase with large enough molecular size for bacteria to attack. Even this causes dissolved hydrocarbon concentrations in the liquid phase to be measured in low concentrations.
- Chemical Factors; namely the molecular structure of the contaminants that will greatly affect the physical & chemical properties and the biodegradability of the contaminants. Biodegradability is very closely related to solubility, carbon chain & branch and saturation of the hydrocarbons. The more saturated, the longer and more persist the existing carbon chains making the biodegradation process will be increasingly difficult, even though these compounds have the same empirical formula.

Optimizing environmental factors

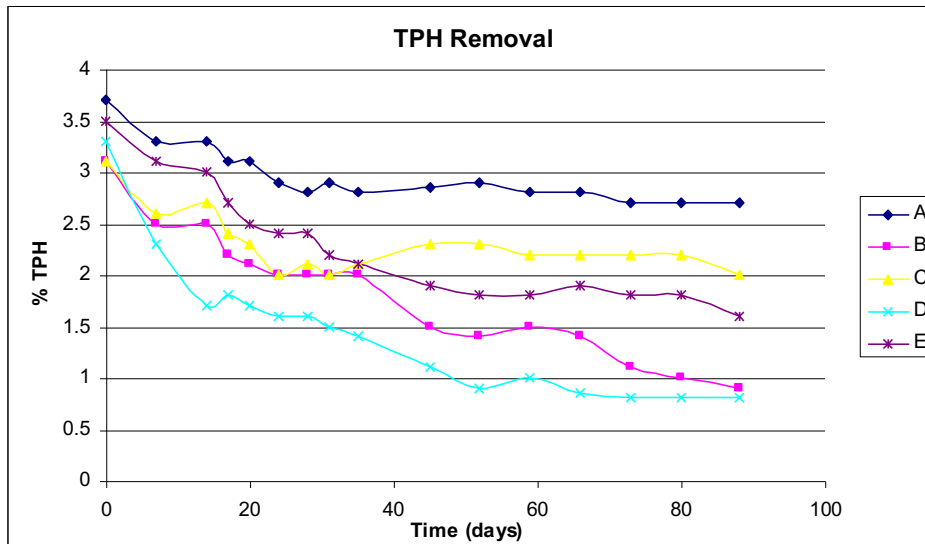
In the engineering of bioremediation process of hydrocarbon contaminated soils, those three factors mentioned above, are implemented simultaneously in an effort to obtain optimal operating conditions for the bioremediation process. An effort to optimize the three factors include:

- Mixing; This process will simultaneously increase the bioavailability of contaminants and increase hydraulic conductivity so that it has an impact on increasing available oxygen. Thus, although the hydrocarbons that have low solubility in water (especially for long chain hydrocarbons), the bioavailability of these compounds will increase through the mixing process. Through this stirring, the process of degradation of long chain hydrocarbon compounds will proceed well because the TPH degradation process which consists of highly complex hydrocarbons begins with the formation of the oxygenase enzyme whose activation depends on the presence of oxygen molecules (Atlas, 1995). Stirring will also result in agglomerated soil as a result of long chain hydrocarbons breaking into small sizes, which in turn will increase contact of soil contaminated with long chain hydrocarbons with existing bacteria.
- The addition of bulking agents can increase the porosity and hydraulic conductivity of oil-contaminated soils especially for soils generally dominated by clay soils tend to have low porosity and hydraulic conductivity. Thus, the addition of bulking agents will improve soil structure by increasing both physical factors. Therefore, oxygen molecules are available in sufficient quantities for the synthesis of oxygenase enzymes responsible for breaking the hydrocarbon chains into simpler chains. Various studies that have been conducted including at ITB, prove that the addition of bulking agents will increase the bioavailability of hydrocarbons.
- Dewatering and bio-surfactant addition; bioavailability of low long chain hydrocarbons can be increased through the dewatering process to maintain optimal humidity so that nutrients and oxygen can be used by bacteria easily. Addition of

auxiliary agents such as surfactants can increase the solubility of long chain hydrocarbons as shown in figure below. Thus, at an optimal water content, the addition of surfactants will result in hydrocarbons that originally had non-polar groups will turn into polar. Thus, long chain hydrocarbons that originally had a large size that is not possible to be adsorbed by bacteria, turned into micelle oil which is very small in size and ready to be used by bacteria. A pilot-scale study conducted at ITB (Helmy et al., 2015) shows that the addition of bio-surfactants, surfactants that is produced by bacteria of the *Azotobacter* sp. Group, has increased the bioavailability of long-chain hydrocarbons to enable the biodegradation of these compounds into compounds. simpler hydrocarbons with 2x removal efficiency and characterized by breaking long chains into simple chains both qualitatively and quantitatively.

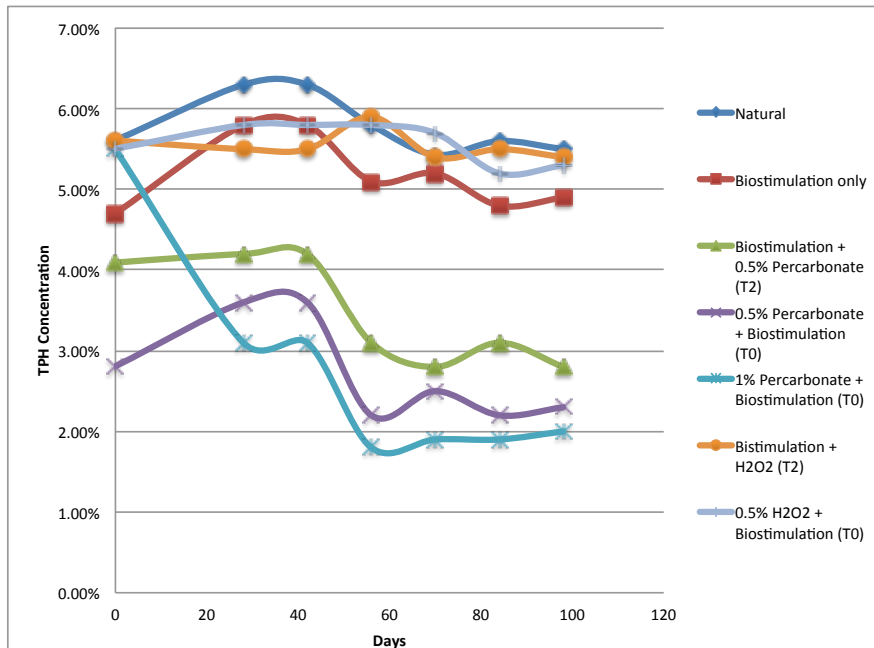


- Oxygen supply as electron acceptors; so that oxygen can always be available in sufficient quantities, the oxygen supply can be done in various ways. Passively can be done with a windrow system or actively by doing aerobic static biopile processes either by positive or negative pressure. Thus, the continuity of the availability of oxygen molecules needed by the oxygenase enzyme for hydrocarbon degradation will always be maintained.
- Bioaugmentation; hydrocarbons with carbon chains > C16 have recalcitrant characteristics and are less biodegradable. However, through a biological engineering process, it is evident that some long chain hydrocarbon compounds can undergo biodegradation. The bacteria responsible for terminating these long chain hydrocarbons have been widely isolated and used in various bioremediation processes for petroleum-contaminated soils. So, to increase the rate of bioremediation process of soil contaminated by long chain petroleum can be done by adding these petrophilic bacteria or referred to as the bioaugmentation process. The following figure shows a success example of bioaugmentation process experiment that performed in our laboratory.



- Control reactor; No bacteria were added (A): **Natural Attenuation**
- Reactor with the addition of Isolated Bacteria + Bulking Agent (B): **Bio-augmentation**
- Reactor running with Indigenous Bacteria + Bulking Agent (C): **Bio-stimulation**
- Reactor with the addition of PETREA + Bulking Agent (D)
- Reactor with the addition of Isolated Bacteria without Bulking Agent (E)

- The addition of oxidizing agent; by combination between oxidation & biodegradation process, it is expected to also increase the bio-availability of hydrocarbon. Oxidation will form simpler compounds allowing bacteria to attack the product in performing biodegradation. Oxidized products are expected to be more degradable & higher solubility (Goi, 2005 & Brame et al, 2013), thus it will increase the hydrocarbon bio-availability. The following figure indicated the performance of oxidation-biodegradation process in laboratory scale.



In addition to the engineering process above which basically aims to increase the bioavailability of long chain hydrocarbons, the addition of N and P in optimal amounts is also essential (Rosenberg & Ron, 1996). Theoretically, it would take

approximately 150 mg of N and 30 mg of P to convert 1 gram of hydrocarbons into bacterial cells. Generally, soils polluted by hydrocarbons, especially petroleum hydrocarbons, contain very low N & P elements. So, so that the bioremediation process runs well, the addition of N & P elements plays an important role.

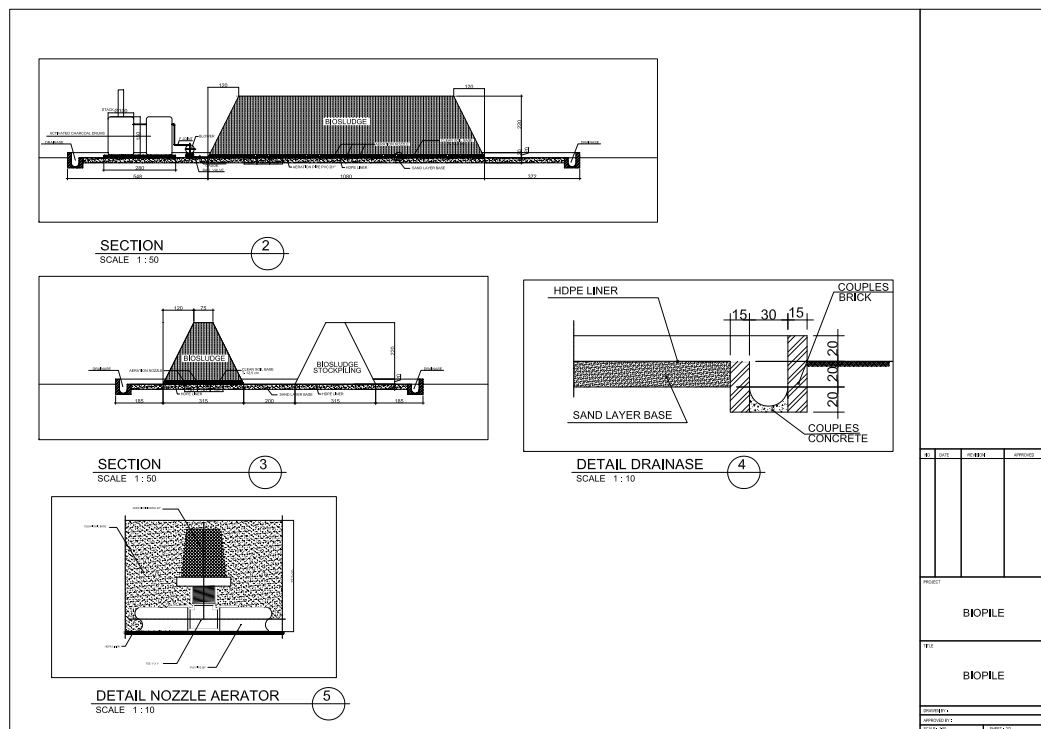
Various studies have been conducted to examine the bioremediation process of hydrocarbon polluted soils, especially those related to TPH. The complexity of the hydrocarbon fraction present in petroleum hydrocarbons makes the TPH degradation process an interesting research object. Eweis et al., 1998 and Cookson Jr., 1995, demonstrated the biodegradability of various TPH fractions carried out by various researchers. Hydrocarbons in TPH generally consist of alkanes, cycloalkanes, aromatics, polycyclic aromatics, asphaltines and resins, most of which are long chain hydrocarbons. Various species of bacteria and fungi have been successfully isolated and proven to be able to process part of a long chain hydrocarbons both through aerobic and anaerobic processes. A study conducted at ITB showed that petroleum-contaminated soil in PT CPI has a carbon chain dominated by the fraction > C16 has undergone a process of degradation into a simpler hydrocarbon compound, which is between C11-C15 within 80 days where at the same time its TPH concentration has decreased from 2% to 0.5%. From the results of the study it was also seen that there was a symbiosis between the petrophilic bacteria and the *Azotobacter* bacteria which are biosurfactant-producing bacteria. The biosurfactant produced by *Azotobacter* bacteria will increase the solubility of long-chain hydrocarbons.

Lab to Field: Stages of Bioremediation Process

To ensure the success of the bioremediation process implementation, several stages need to be carried out. Thus, the choice of treatment technology that will be applied in accordance with the needs and conditions in the field. These stages are as follows:

1. Site characterization; Things that need to be done at this stage include identification of the distribution of contaminants, background & site/site history, and the initial transformation of pollutants that have already taken place. Tracing can be done through collecting secondary and primary data (taking measurements in the field for delineation of vertical and horizontal pollutant distribution and also the physical characteristics of the soil to be recovered). The final goal of this stage is to see the feasibility of implementing the bioremediation process. This stage is the beginning of the screening process of bioremediation technology choices that will be applied (ex-situ or in-situ).
2. Treatability Study; This stage is done in the laboratory to ensure the level of biodegradability of the contaminants/pollutants. At this stage various laboratory tests are carried out including the bacterial growth kinetics involved in the bioremediation process, soil toxicity testing before processing and its processed products, analysis of product metabolites, various bioremediation techniques that may be carried out, and others. At this stage also the application of the process of bio-stimulation and bio-augmentation can be tried. So, on a field-scale application it has been decided which technique is best to remediate the contaminated soil. Similar to the site characterization stage, the treatability stage is only done at the initial stage of the bioremediation process. Treatability studies need to be done again if there is a fundamental change in the characteristics of the site which includes changes in the type and composition of contaminants/pollutants as well as the physical characteristics of the polluted soil.

3. Pilot Study; This stage aims to scale up the treatability studies that are still in the laboratory scale. This process is important before full scale application because it is a miniature of the bioremediation process that will be applied. In the treatment study stage, most of the parameters determining the success of bioremediation are fully controlled. However, at the pilot scale stage some parameters will be greatly influenced by environmental conditions (for example temperature). So, it is expected that this stage is a representation of the field scale application. The parameters managed during this pilot study are all physical, chemical and environmental parameters that will affect the success of the bioremediation process.
4. Good engineering plan. Having followed the stages of bioremediation planning, one of the most important product is the engineering design of bioremediation. Engineering drawing of the plant should be produced in order to make sure that the bioremediation process following the engineering design criteria. The following figure shows an example of a biopile engineering drawing.



Bioremediation Process Application

As mentioned above, the process of bioremediation of contaminated soil can be done in-situ (no removal of contaminated material / soil) and ex-situ (involving removal of contaminated material or soil):

- In-situ bioremediation techniques are carried out with the aim of improving the biodegradation process at the place of contaminants originating from the topsoil (sub-surface) or at the location of existing contaminated soil. In-situ techniques have several advantages, including reducing the disturbance to the location of contaminated soil; exposure to contaminants or pollutants is very minimal and reduces transportation costs. In-situ techniques require more detailed and comprehensive exploration of contaminant sites. This is especially necessary to ensure that the treatment process does not result in expansion of the pollution area

due to the movement or contamination of contaminants to other areas through groundwater flow. Therefore, it is often necessary to have many monitoring wells to check the treatment efficiency and the possibility of contaminant spillage or movement. In addition, for in-situ techniques, adding nutrients or oxygen to the soil will require further engineering considerations. Unsaturated soil conditions will provide different alternative options for delivery to the contaminated soil. Examples of bioremediation techniques in-situ are soil venting and bioventing. Soil Venting is used if the dominant contaminant is volatile. This method is done by supplying oxygen to the uncontaminated soil and evacuating the gas produced due to decontamination which is carried out and then subsequently treated. Bioventing is applied if the dominant contaminants are semi-volatile and non-volatile. This method is done by supplying oxygen to the contaminated area and injecting or infiltrating nutrients.

- Unlike the in-situ technique, in the ex-situ technique, contaminated soil will be collected (excavated) and then transported to the treatment site. Therefore, this technique will require costs for transportation and other areas specifically for treatment locations. Because of the ex-situ nature, the types of treatment that can be done are more diverse. Contaminated soil can be treated in the form of solid, slurry or maybe liquid. The treatment process can be in the form of landfarming, composting (windrow and biopile) and bioreactors for the slurry phase. Landfarming is usually carried out on open ground surfaces, where contaminated soil is spread and the process is carried out in open spaces. The aeration process is carried out by tilling. The composting method can be done either in open air or in a reactor/enclosed space where the aerating system uses active aeration which is to provide sufficient air supply into the contaminated soil through a piped system (aerated static biopile) or by passive aeration that is done routinely reversal (windrow). Whereas slurry-reactors are carried out in ponds or special bioreactors. The advantages of ex situ bioremediation include: enabling optimization of treatment conditions and process control; the fastest bioremediation technique; specific bacteria can be added. While the disadvantage of ex situ bioremediation techniques is that the most expensive bioremediation approach and can result in the release of volatile materials.

Conclusion

Efforts have been made in order to increase the rate of bioremediation process by optimizing some environmental factors that affecting the bioavailability of the contaminants. Laboratory scale results demonstrated that by optimizing environmental factors as well as the addition of some biological or chemical substances resulted in a good bioremediation performance. Since the process involving the addition of chemical substances, toxicity of treated soil must be further examined. However, in order to apply this laboratory scale results to field scale, some works should be done. Well prepared and engineered field scale in order to reduce the gap with laboratory results is a must.

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