

## AquaEco-SRORS To Boost Palm Oil Revenue



Liew says the system provides an immediate solution for millers to better meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements. (Pic by Ismail Che Rus/TMR)

AQUA EcoTech Sdn Bhd (AquaEco) expects its new solids removal oil recovery system, also known as the AquaEco-SRORS, to be instrumental in boosting the local palm oil revenue by RM1.2 billion annually.

AquaEco director Andrew Liew said the new application — that could be used by oil mills — would enable the extraction of up to 80% of oil in raw palm oil sludge, or an increase of 0.4%-0.6% in oil extraction rate (OER).

"The AquaEco-SRORS system could transform the palm oil industry by allowing millers to address long-standing palm oil waste sludge challenges that have been a major industry problem and a costly affair for decades," he told reporters at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said the new system, a patented technology that is currently used by two palm oil mills in Perak and Sabah, could also reduce biogas emission by 70% with the output of an oil-free filtrate and no suspended solids.

"This technology is a big deal for palm oil millers as it drastically reduces the high chemical oxygen demand and biological oxygen demand in waste water, (thus) promoting the industry to be much cleaner and environmentally friendly," Liew noted.

Following the success of the two mills, he said the company is expected to install between four and five units of the system in other mills.

"The system pays for itself from the increase in revenue and from savings on lowered desludging," he said, adding that the return of investment for the system can be recovered within two to three years.

He claimed that the AquaEco-SRORS is able to recover about 1,462 metric tonnes of oil, or 0.5% OER, which translates to an incremental revenue of about RM3.8 million.

Liew said that currently, the average OER of Malaysian palm oil stands at 20.65%.

"In a normal palm oil mill, the oil extraction discharges 65% of raw waste sludge, which requires a large number of wastewater treatment ponds to clean," he stressed.

The AquaEco-SRORS system is also claimed to be able solve the issue of wastewater by intercepting the raw sludge and separates it into water, solids and oil.

Liew pointed out that the system provides an immediate solution for millers to better meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements, as it would help the mills to gain extra points for their Roundtable Sustainable Palm Oil.

"Local palm oil millers can take advantage of the compliance to garner the licence to export palm oil to Europe. We also had talks with the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil committee," he commented.

Liew said the average installation cost of the new system is between RM6 million to RM12 million, depending on the capacity and complexity of the mill.