

## The Speakers

### **First Speaker - Biofuels: Its Development and Sustainability**

#### **Professor Dr. Lau Seng**

BSc (Hons.) in Chemistry, UPM and PhD (Organometallic Chemistry) from University of Hull, UK.

He is currently a Professor of Environmental Chemistry and the Director of Centre for Water Research at the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC), UNIMAS.

Previous appointments:

- ◆ Attached to Universiti Pertanian Malaysia from 1987 – 1993
- ◆ Joined Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) as Lecturer in 1993.

### **Second Speaker - Melamine**

#### **Mr. Sim Hang Thiew**

B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Chemistry from University of Canterbury, N.Z.

He is currently a consultant chemist with Chemsain Environmental Consultants Sdn. Bhd.

Previous appointments:

- ◆ Chemist at Jabatan Kimia, Kuching 1981 - 2003
- ◆ Director, Jabatan Kimia Malaysia, Bintulu 2004 - 2006
- ◆ Director, Jabatan Kimia Malaysia, Kuching 2007 - 2008

**STA Tea Talk** is an informal forum organised by the Sarawak Timber Association for the purpose of dissemination of information.

### **About STA**

Sarawak Timber Association (STA) started in 1971. Currently there are about 550 member companies involved in logging, sawmilling, manufacturing of panel products, furniture and moulding, manufacturing and export of timber products and establishment of planted forests.



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# BIOFUELS

Its development and sustainability



# &

# MELAMINE



**STA Tea Talk**  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Saturday, 22 November 2008

Wisma **STA**

## Biofuel: Its Development and Sustainability



The uncertainty of the future supply of fossil fuels has resulted in the drastic increase in the fuel prices. The impact of this fuel price increase on the world economy is enormous.

In addition to this economic stranglehold, the usage of fossil fuels has been singled out as the major contributor to global



warming and hence climate change. In combating these two issues, scientists have introduced biofuels which are any solids, liquids or gaseous fuels that originate

from biological materials. The development of biofuels has been hastened recently due to the oil price crisis.

The production of ethanol and biogas will be discussed without most of the technical details. This talk will discuss the definition and some historical development of biofuels, the types of biofuels, impacts of biofuels on the environment and its conflicts with food production. The impacts on global warming and climate change will be briefly discussed.



## Melamine



The recent outbreak of infant poisoning due to the tainted milk formula in China is said to have affected one out of every four infants in the Beijing area of China. The formula was tainted with a chemical called melamine. This is the exact same chemical that caused a spate of pet food poisonings among

domestic dogs and cats in the USA in 2007. At that time, the United States Food and Drug Administration said that melamine contaminated "proteins" had been found in other animal feed that had been processed and sold.



In low doses, the occasional ingestion of melamine is not all that harmful, but taken regularly over a period of time or in higher concentrations, melamine poisoning causes kidney stones and can lead to fatal complications, particularly for the very young.

Image Source:

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2. Image from the presenter's file
3. [http://www.ppi-ppic.org/ppiweb/gseasia.nsf/\\$webindex/article=26EBFE6648256C3200118C97D987A869!opendocument](http://www.ppi-ppic.org/ppiweb/gseasia.nsf/$webindex/article=26EBFE6648256C3200118C97D987A869!opendocument)
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