

Visit to Top Glove Bhd

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



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THE Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD) of IEM organised a technical visit to Top Glove Bhd (Factory 9) in Klang, Selangor, on 22 May 2013. Established in 1991, Top Glove Bhd is, today, the world's largest rubber glove manufacturer, with 23 factories and 458 production lines in Malaysia, Thailand and China.

Taking part in the visit were 27 IEM members. On arrival, we were warmly greeted by Top Glove Bhd Managing Director Mr. Lee Kim Meow and other top management staff who gave us a briefing on the overall facilities and factory operations.

Prior to the plant visit, we listened to a talk on the current rubber glove technology. Top Glove collaborates with government agencies such as Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM) and Lembaga Getah Malaysia (LGM) to keep abreast of the latest in rubber research technology.

Top Glove's natural latex and nitrile latex gloves have been recognised for top quality, with an annual production of 41.1 billion gloves. With the motto, "Top Quality, Top



Efficiency, Good Health, Safety First & Be Honest", the company has shown outstanding achievement in the worldwide glove manufacturing industry. During the discussion session, it was revealed that there had been interesting and unusual customer requests when it came to rubber gloves. For instance, those in the tattoo business prefer black gloves while dentists favour gloves with strawberry or orange scents which mask the unpleasant odour of natural latex from their patients.

IEM members were then invited to visit the latex production process, together with experienced facilitators to answer any query we might have. A facilitator informed the group that over the years, Top Glove had been upgrading the process from manual operation to full automation. We were also encouraged to offer constructive suggestions to improve the process during the plant tour. Overall, the visit helped the IEM participants understand better the overall latex glove operation and challenges faced by glove industry. ■