EKOPRENA as a Green Material

EKOPRENA is a form of epoxidised natural rubber (ENR) and it is an established class of specialty rubber obtained by epoxidation of natural rubber (NR) latex. **EKOPRENA** is a green material as it is produced from a renewable natural source unlike synthetic rubbers which are derived from non-replenishable petroleum. **EKOPRENA** is produced at the Malaysian Rubber Board Research Station, Sungai Buloh and presently it is presented in the form of polythene wrapped 33 1/3 kg bale.

A current major demand of **EKOPRENA** is from tyre manufacturers worldwide as a green material with its advantageous properties in the manufacturing of environmentally-friendly tyres or green tyres. Thus, with the increasing demand to reduce fuel consumption, it is apparent that **EKOPRENA** will have a significant role to play as a green material in the future development of tyres. This was materialized in October 2005 when SRI Dunlop in Japan announced a green tyre concept for passenger cars which was achieved through the use of high percentage of renewable materials including natural rubber to replace petroleum-based materials. This tyre range utilizes an **EKOPRENA 25**/silica tread for maintaining excellent wet grip and reducing rolling resistance to reduce fuel consumption. Commercial production of this tyre began in January 2006 and to date over 10,000 tyres are in the market.

Last Update: 22 Sep 2008