



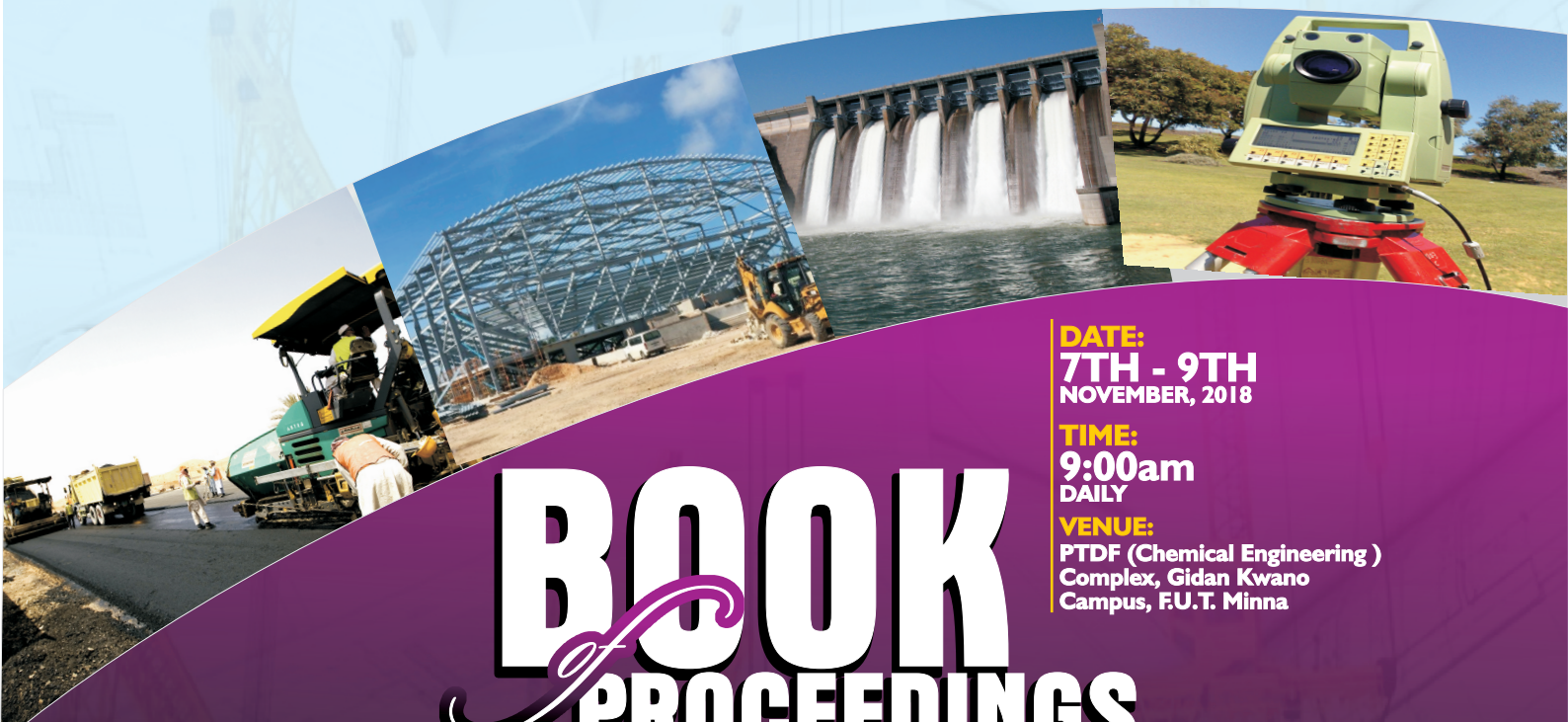
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING**  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA

**1<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE (ICEC)**



**Theme:**

**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF  
CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**



**DATE:**  
**7TH - 9TH**  
NOVEMBER, 2018

**TIME:**  
**9:00am**  
DAILY

**VENUE:**  
PTDF (Chemical Engineering )  
Complex, Gidan Kwano  
Campus, F.U.T. Minna

**BOOK**  
**PROCEEDINGS**

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## FOREWORD

The First International Civil Engineering Conference (ICEC) being held in the Main Campus of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018 derives from the necessity to provide a suitable forum for the interaction of a wide spectrum of stakeholders including the academia and practitioners in the industry for the purpose of advancing the frontiers of knowledge in the Civil Engineering profession and allied sciences and technology. It is sheer truism to state that economic vicissitudes are rapidly becoming the major determinant in the rate and size of infrastructure development in any modern nation. By implication, therefore, the practice of civil engineering is subject to the vagaries of the nation's economy with particular reference to Nigeria. Accordingly, the Conference theme, "Infrastructure Development in the Context of Contemporary Economic Challenges" has been carefully chosen to address myriads of problems that are re-defining the scope and solution techniques applicable in the contemporary practice of civil engineering.

In order to ensure a wide coverage of the domain of civil engineering, we broke the theme down to eight sub-themes encompassing such areas as: (a) Structural Engineering Practice (b) Transport Systems including Planning, Development, Operation and Maintenance (c) Water Resources Management (d) Geo-Sciences and Geo-Engineering (e) ICT in Infrastructure Development (f) Energy (g) Engineering Materials, and (h) Project Management. Thrillingly, responses were received in all the sub-themes.

Manuscripts received were subjected to blind peer-review, carried out by researchers who have in-depth knowledge and experience in the specialization, to ensure that our threshold minimum standard was met – the standard being consistent with any other similar international academic fora. Thus, out of the total eighty submissions received, sixty-five (representing 81% of the total submissions) were adjudged acceptable while the remaining fifteen could not meet the minimum acceptable quality level and therefore rejected. However, in the long run sixty of the accepted sixty-five registered for the conference. Interestingly, going by the accepted papers and subsequent registration, the participating countries include Nigeria, Niger Republic, India and Malaysia.

We, the entire members of the Conference Organizing Committee (COC), heartily welcome all participants to the ICEC and trust that you would maximally utilize the opportunity to peer-interact and establish contacts for possible future research collaborations and linkages. We also seize this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to all – authors, reviewers, supporting individuals and agencies, and above all the Management and staff of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria, whose efforts have culminated in successfully holding the conference.

As the maiden edition of the biennial conference, this edition places us on the learning curve. We are therefore open to suggestions and constructive criticisms that would improve our future outings. We wish you all happy and fruitful academic and professional interactions.

**Engr. Prof. S. Sadiku**

**Chairman (Conference Organizing Committee)**

## TABLE OF CONTENT

Content	Page
Forward	i
Table of Content	ii
Discrete-Continuous Configuration Optimization of Truss Structure Using the Harmony Search Algorithm <i>Jibrin I. Jibrin and Aaron Aboshio</i>	1-7
Effect of Operational Conditions on Adsorption Efficiency of Pollutants from Livestock Wastewater <i>Anijiofor Sandra, Nik Norsyahariati Nik Daud, Syazwani Idrus and Hasfalina Che Man</i>	8-14
Weight Optimization of a Laboratory Stool Using Ansys Workbench <i>Aisha Muhammad and Ibrahim Haruna Shanono</i>	14-21
A Policy Framework for Efficient and Sustainable Transport System to Boost Synergy Between Urban and Rural Settlements in Developing Countries: A Case of Nigeria <i>Paul Terkumbur Adeke, Abraham Aondoseer Atoo and Emmanuel Joel</i>	22-30
Effect of Compaction Delay on Cement Klin Dust of Stabilized Lateritic Soil <i>Idris, M. H.; Khalid, A. A., and Zango, M. U.</i>	31-35
Predicting Soil Moisture and Soil Temperature in a Tropical Peatland Using Water Table Depth, Surface Temperature and Rainfall <i>Adeolu Richard Adesiji, John Jiya Musa and Saidu Mohammed</i>	36-44
Reliability Assessment of Deflection for Crane Runway Beam <i>Muhammad I. Haruna and Yusuf Ibrahim Muhammad</i>	45-49
Production of Ceiling Board Using Waste Materials <i>Kolo S. S.; Jimoh Y. A.; Adeleke O. O.; Oyelade O. A.; and Yusuf I. T.</i>	50-54
A Contribution to the Buckling Analysis of Stiffened Rectangular Isotropic Plates <i>Victor Ibeabuchi, O Ibearugbulem, Chukwunonye Ezeah and Onuegbu Ugwu</i>	55-60
Model for Predicting the Quantity of Plastering Waste in Building Construction Works in Abuja, Nigeria <i>Umar Abdulkadir and Saidu Ibrahim</i>	61-66
Influence of Aggregates Sizes in Concretes Subjected to Higher Elevated Temperatures <i>Mohammed Maiwada Goga, Aliyu Ishaq, Salisu Dahiru and Jummai I. Zailani</i>	67-70
Assessment of the Effect of Chicken Feather on the Biogas Production of Horse Dung <i>Aliyu Ishaq, Salisu Dahiru, Isah Garba and Meshach Ileanwa Alfa</i>	71-76
Effect of Bacillus Coagulans-Induced Precipitate on Some Properties of Lateritic Soil as a Road Construction Material <i>Kolawole Juwonlo Osinubi, Adrian Oshioname Eberemu, Ijimdiya Thomas Stephen, Paul Yohanna and John Engbonye Sani</i>	77-82
Flood Inundation Mapping Around Lokoja Confluence Area, Kogi State, Nigeria <i>Mairo Muhammed, Joseph Shar, Mary O. Odekunle, A. M. Touraki and Dhote Pankaj</i>	83-89
A Review on Precision Agriculture in the Nigerian Agricultural System <i>Ismail Baba Kutigi, John Jiya Musa, Peter Aderemi Adeoye and Peter Obasa</i>	90-99
Analysis of a Knuckle Joint Using Different Materials <i>Aisha Muhammad and Ibrahim Haruna Shanono</i>	100-106

Effect of Remoulded Density on Creep of Black Cotton Soil <i>Ramatu Jibrin, Taiye Elisha W Adejumo and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</i>	107-113
Suitability of Carbide Waste as Pavement Material <i>Nuh Isa and Joel Manasseh</i>	114-117
Evaluation of Compaction Characteristics of Iron Ore Tailings Treated with Bentonite <i>Isiuwa Jovita Okoro, Agapitus Ahamefule Amadi, Musa Alhassan, and Emmanuel Agbese</i>	118-123
Barriers to The Adoption of Building Information Modeling in Nigerian Construction Industry <i>Daniel Kolo, Theophilus Tsado, Alhaji Bala, Stephen Adinoyi and Dan Kolo</i>	124-128
Examining the Impacts of Information Communication Technology on Quantity Surveyors in Abuja, FCT <i>Olufemi Bode-Badaki and Ibrahim Saidu</i>	129-135
Cement-Based Stabilization of Black Cotton Soil Using Rice Husk ash and Promoter <b>Dogo A. I., Mustapha M. M, Adejumo T.W.E and Aguwa J. I.</b>	136-143
Physicochemical Characterization of Lime Stabilized Iron Ore Tailings using Bentonite as Admixture <i>Abdulmumin Muhammad, Agapitus A. Amadi and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</i>	144-147
Evaluation of Risk Factors Impacting on Construction Project Performance in Abuja <i>Muhammed Sanusi Abdullahi and Maroof Opeyemi Anifowose</i>	148-155
Preliminary Assessment of Iron Ore Tailings Stabilized with Quarry Fines and Cement for Pavement Subbase <i>Anthony Oshioke Igbadumhe, Agapitus A. Amadi and Musa Alhassan</i>	156-159
Correlation Between Geotechnical Index Properties and Compaction Parameters of Cement Stabilized Iron Ore Tailings–Bentonite Mixtures <i>Benedict Akinwande, Agapitus Amadi and Mustapha Alhaji</i>	160-164
Soil Properties of Residual Soil Mixed with Agricultural Waste Ashes <i>Nik Norsyahariati Nik Daud, Amirah Nor Sadan, Adeolu Richard Adesiji and Chinenyenwa Sandra Anijiofor</i>	165-169
Investigation into the Geotechnical Properties of Selected Lateritic Soils from Minna as Pavement Materials <i>Ob'lama, E. J.; Amadi, A. A.; Alhaji, A. A.; Alhassan, M. and Adejumo, T.W.E</i>	170-176
Effect of Locust Bean Pod Epicarp Ash on the Compressive Strength of Revibrated Concrete <i>Kabiru Adebayo and Samuel Auta Mahuta</i>	177-183
Volumetric Shrinkage of Compacted Lateritic Soil Treated with Sporosarcina Pasteurii <i>Kolawole Osinubi, Emmanuel Gadzama, Adrian Eberemu and Thomas Ijimdiya</i>	184-193
Physical and Minerological Characteristics of Overburden on three Common Basement Complexes <i>Abdullahi Yahaya Musa, Musa Alhassan and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</i>	194-201
Evaluation of Physical and Geotechnical Characteristic of Residual Profile with Depth of Three Common Basement Complexes in Niger State <i>Ahmad Ibrahim, Alhassan Musa and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</i>	202-207
Compaction and Consolidation Characteristics of A-7-6 Soil <i>Owoicho Otene, Taiye Adejumo and Mustapha Mohammed</i>	208-213
Investigating the Use of Corn Cob Ash as a Partial Replacement for Cement in Concrete Production <i>Francis Adebayo Ajibade Abdulai, James Isiwu Aguwa and Theophilus Yisa Tsado</i>	214-217



Assessment of the Properties of High Strength Concrete Made Using Quarry Dust as Fine Aggregate <i>Tahir Mohammed, Abdulazeez Yusuf and Aliyu Abdullahi</i>	218-224
Analysis of the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for Photogrammetric Survey – Nile University of Nigeria as Study Area <i>Onyebuchi Mogbo, Abdul Hameed Mambo and Salsabila Wali</i>	225-234
Soil Slope Stability Analysis Using Limit Equilibrium Method for a Proposed Water Reservoir at Nile University of Nigeria Abuja <i>Abdulhameed Mambo, Onyebuchi Mogbo and Abubakar Dayyabu</i>	235-241
Stabilization of A-6 Lateritic Soil Using Rice Husk Ash and Promoter <b>Daniel Amodu, Musa Alhassan and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</b>	242-248
Preconsolidation Stress of Residual Soils in North-Central Nigeria <b>Muhammad Fatahu Abdulkareem, Musa Alhassan and Mustapha Mohammed Alhaji</b>	249-243
Application of Value Management to enhance construction of Residential Housing for Federal Civil Servants IN Nigeria <b>Ruth Omozokpia Umesi and Bashiro Ganiyu</b>	254-260
Evaluating Performance of Consortia on Building Construction Projects in Lagos <i>Femi Olorundare AND Maroof Anifowose</i>	261-268
Modification of Bitumen with Polyethylene Vinyl-Acetate from the Sole of Flip-Flops <i>Abdulfatai Adinoyi Murana, Victor Udale Okpanachi and Ebenezer Taiye Laraiyetan</i>	268-277
Design and Implementation of an Integrated Electronic Security System <i>Abubakar, I. N.; Yusuf, H. M.; Ambafi, J. G.; and Ajagun, A. S.</i>	278-283
Effects of Partial Replacement of River Sand with Stone Dust in Concrete Production <i>Ogbonnaya Okoroafor Eze, James Aguwa Isiwu and Samuel Auta Mahuta</i>	284-293
Computer Aided Analysis of a Power Transmission Tower Subjected to Ground Acceleration <i>Samson Alufa and Salawu Sadiku</i>	294-298
Corn Husk Ash as Partial Replacement for Cement in Lateritic Interlocking Blocks <i>Jamiu Oladipo, Raheem Akeem, Sodiq Ogunjobi and Victor Ajayi</i>	299-304
Investigating Some Geotechnical Properties of Overburden Soil within Abuja in North Central Nigeria <i>Baba Gomna, Alhassan Musa and Mustapha Alhaji</i>	305-310
A Policy Framework for Efficient and Sustainable Transport System to Boost Synergy Between Urban and Rural Settlements in Developing Countries: A Case of Nigeria <i>Paul Terkumbur Adeke, Abraham Aondoseer Atoo and Emmanuel Joel</i>	311-319
Experimental and Field Evaluation of A-6 Lateritic Soil Stabilized with Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement <i>Umar A. T., Alhaji, M. M.; and Adejumo, T.W.E</i>	320-324
Effect of Inoculum on Co-Digestion of Chicken Droplet and Food Waste for Biogas Production <i>Mohammed Saidu, Abdul Kabir Mobolaji Ibrahim, Richard Adesiji and Jibrin Gbonbo</i>	325-328
Effect of Water Cement (W/C) Ratio on Compressive and Flexural Strengths of Concrete Containing Coarse Aggregate Partially Replaced with Periwinkle Shells <i>Joseph Shelleng Onehi, Theophilus Yisa Tsado and Mohammed Abdullahi</i>	329-333
Stiffened Slab Analysis Using Finite Strip Method <i>Vincent Ike, Salawu Sadiku and Mohammed Abdullahi</i>	334-338

Computer Aided Analysis of Hierarchical Truss Structures Based on the Method of Substructuring <i>Alfiyya Musa, Salawu Sadiku and Mohammed Abdullahi</i>	339-342
Stress Analysis of Continuous Slab on Elastic Foundation Using the Finite Difference Method <i>Peter Ukonu, Salawu Sadiku and James I. Aguwa</i>	342-350
Computer-Aided Analysis of Reinforced Concrete Waffle Slab Bridge Deck Using Method of Grillages <i>Hawawu Adamu, Salawu Sadiku and Bala Alhaji</i>	351-355
A Genetically Optimized Model in Determining Applications for Desired Stream Cipher <i>Joshua Mamza Edward, John Kolo Alhassan and Joseph Adebayo Ojeniyi</i>	356-360
Preliminary Evaluation of Pago Clay in Production of Interlocking Bricks <i>Ibe, P. C; Alhaji, M. M &amp; Amadi, A. A.</i>	361-364
Assessment of the Hygrothermal Properties of Mortar using Quarry Dust <i>Okafor A.; Yusuf A.; and Abdullahi A.</i>	365-369
Statistical Modeling of Compressive Strength of Ordinary Portland Cement Concrete with Rice Husk Ash <i>Mustapha, G. A.; Aguwa, J. I. &amp; Bala, A.</i>	370-377
Road Pavement Settlement Determination <i>Ekufe E. O; Kolo S. S.; Ladan M; Aba J.; Elogie P. &amp; Alhaji U.</i>	378-381
Properties and Microstructure of Concrete Containing Iron Ore Tailings <i>Oritola, S. F.; Saleh, A. L. &amp; Mohd Sam, A. R</i>	382-387



# Properties and Microstructure of Concrete Containing Iron ore tailings

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## ABSTRACT

Successful utilization of waste materials such as agro, urban and industrial waste in concrete depends on its use being economically competitive with the alternate natural material. In this study, Iron ore tailings (IOTs), an industrial waste product, generated during the production of iron ore, is used in its natural state as fine aggregate to partially replace sand, for the production of normal strength concrete. The use of this waste material brings about conservation of declining natural resources, the utilization of valuable land for more profitable use and economic advantage in comparison to the conventional material. The physical properties of the Iron ore tailings were determined and compared with that of natural sand. Fresh and hardened properties of concrete were evaluated. Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) images of fine aggregate materials and the hardened concrete produced, were also studied. The microstructure of IOTs concrete samples shows a tighter interface between the cement gel and the aggregate when compared with those of the control concrete sample having no IOTs. The outcomes of mechanical properties tests and the microstructure analysis reveals that the IOTs was able to improve the strength and denseness of concrete. Based on findings from this research, it can be concluded that IOTs can be used to partially replace sand as fine aggregate in concrete, in order to improve the mechanical properties and the pore structure of the concrete.

**Keywords:** *Concrete properties, Industrial waste, Iron ore tailings, Normal strength concrete, Pore structure*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

By visual examination, the Iron ore tailings resembles natural sand and X-ray fluorescence reveals that for most Iron ore tailings, the major component is silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) (Oritola et al., 2015) as shown in Figure. This suggests the need for research into how best the Iron ore tailings can be utilized in concrete. By physical examination, the fineness and angular nature of the Iron ore tailings also suggest that it can improve the denseness of concrete. In severe climates, the surfaces of concrete sidewalks, parking decks, bridges, canals, dams and other structures deteriorate progressively due to different kinds of causes (Jahangir et al., 2014). Due to the fineness of Iron ore tailings, it can also be considered as a promising material for the repair and maintenance of these concrete structures.

Previous research revealed that Iron ore tailings was utilized as fine aggregate to produce ultra-high performance concrete (Zhao et al., 2014). Iron ore tailings from different origins do not have the same geotechnical behaviour. The tailings may even show similar grading, but the parameters cannot be generalized for mines in terms of mineralogy or beneficiation process (Oritola et al., 2015). The IOTs was also used to produce green engineered cementitious

composites (GECC) (Haung et al., 2013) and it was mentioned that mortar's compressive strength was improved due to tighter interface between aggregate and hard cement paste and the enhanced structure related to the finer nature of the Iron ore tailings compared to the reference sand (Yu et al., 2012). Toxicity leaching procedure tests for concrete sample also revealed that the hydraulic binder arrests metal mobility from the iron ore mine wastes (Yellishetty et al., 2008).

The sustainability of the construction industry would be enhanced if the utilization of IOTs in concrete is fully established based on outcomes of research. Plant covers can be saved thereby promoting the greenness of civil infrastructure. This industrial waste can therefore be turned into a major economic gain.

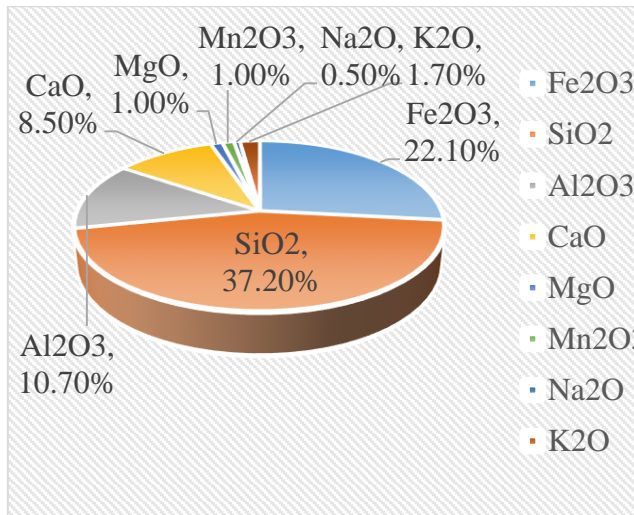


Figure 1: Chemical Composition of Iron ore tailings

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### Materials used for Production of Concrete Samples.

The ordinary Portland cement brand with strength class of 42.5 in accordance with the British standard was used as binder for preparing the concrete samples. The natural sand used as fine aggregate and granite used as coarse aggregate were obtained from a local quarry in Johor. The research focused on the use of three different types of iron ore tailings as fine aggregate serving as partial replacement for the natural sand. These tailings were obtained from ZCM Minerals Kota Tinggi, Landas Seketa Mines Kota Tinggi and Honest Sam Development, Batu Pahat, all in Johor state, Malaysia. The tailings were denoted as ZIOT, LIOT and HIOT respectively.

The experimentally determined physical properties of the aggregate are given in Table 1 while the particle size distribution for all the fine aggregates is shown in Fig. 2. The iron ore tailings HIOT 30% partial replacement of sand in concrete produced the highest compressive strength, the microscopic image of sand is therefore compared with that of HIOTs at 500 $\mu$ m as revealed in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 correspondingly. The energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy of sand and HIOTs are shown Figure 5 and Figure 6 respectively.

Table 1, Physical properties of fine aggregate

Physical properties	Fine aggregates			
	Sand	ZIOT	LIOT	HIOT
Size Passing 600 $\mu$ m %	44	95	96	93
Coef of uniformity	3.7	4.7	4.0	3.9
Coef of curvature	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Porosity %	14	12.1	12.4	11.4
Specific gravity	2.65	2.91	2.74	2.79
Fineness Modulus	3.2	1.4	1.3	1.4
Loose unit wt kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1459	1598	1554	1629
Compacted unit wt kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1696	1817	1774	1839

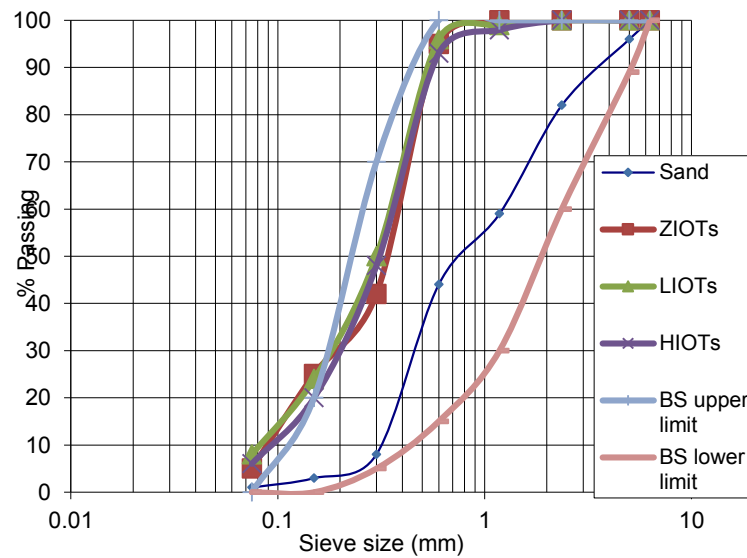


Figure 2. Particle size distribution of fine aggregates

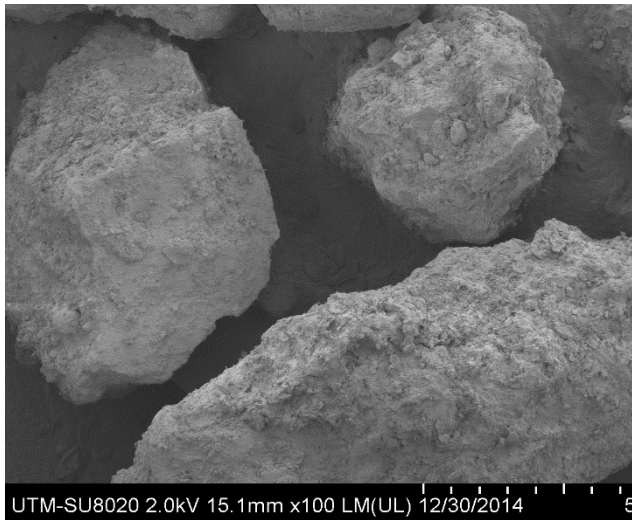


Figure 3: Microscopic image of sand at 500µm

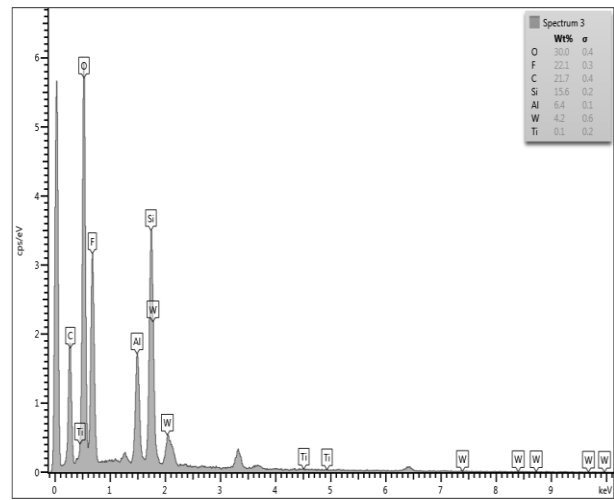


Figure 6: Energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy of HIOTs

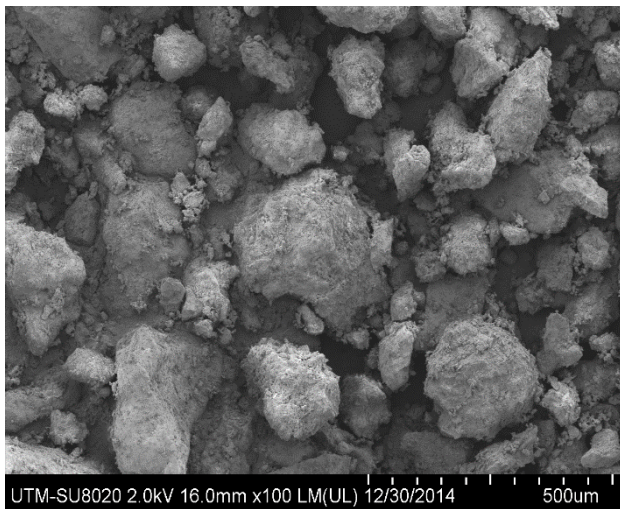


Figure 4: Microscopic image of HIOTs at 500µm

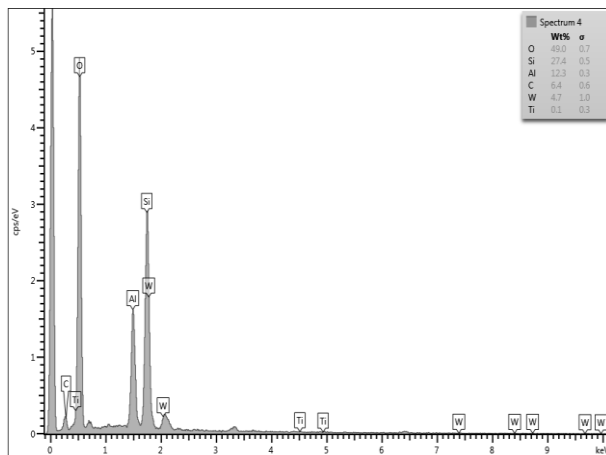


Figure 5: Energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy of sand

### Mix proportion and preparations of concrete samples.

Uniform concrete can be obtained only through proper quality control of all operations from selection and production of materials through batching, mixing, transporting, conveying, placing, consolidation, finishing, and curing (Lambert & James, 2013). The British method for the design of normal strength concrete made with Portland cement as outlined by the Building Research Establishment was used to design normal strength concrete.

Based on the procedure of the concrete mix design and using the appropriate design tables and figures, a normal strength concrete with water content 250 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>, cement content 463 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>, fine aggregate content 769 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> and coarse aggregate content of 868 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> was designed using water-cement ratio of 0.54. The reference mix adopted is that, which contain sand as the only fine aggregate. For each of the IOTs collected from three different mines, the sand replacement level among the concrete samples that gave the highest compressive strength were selected for further comparison with the control sample. These selected concrete samples are denoted as CZT30 (concrete containing 30% ZCM iron ore tailings as fine aggregate), CLT40 and CHT30 accordingly. The reference concrete sample with 0% tailings is denoted as CTO.

### 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The summary of test results, revealing the properties of the fresh concrete is shown in Table 2. There was significant decrease in the workability of the IOTs concrete samples, because of its much greater particle



surface area, but concomitantly there was improvement in cohesiveness. This result is in agreement with the findings of Zhao et al., (2014).

There are several reasons for choosing compressive strength as representative index for concrete. First, concrete is used in a structure to resist compression force. Second, the measurement of compressive strength is easier and lastly, other properties of concrete can be related to it (Oritola et al., 2014). The incorporation of IOTs improves concrete compressive strength up to 30% optimum level for the CZT and CHT concrete samples. This result is in line with the findings of Yunfen, (2014) and Zhang et al., (2014).

The flexural strength test is a strong indicator of how porous or dense a concrete sample is, and it's very sensitive to defects in the microstructure, like micro-cracks in the concrete, than compressive strength and splitting tension tests. Similar trend of results was obtained for the flexural strength test, as it was with the compressive strength and splitting tension tests. Table 3, gives the results of the mechanical properties of hardened concrete samples.

The ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV) test checks the uniformity of concrete samples. The values of pulse velocity for all the concrete samples falls within the range 3.5 – 4.5 Km/s which is considered good. Table 4, indicate the UPV test results for the concrete samples.

The FESEM morphology of materials at magnification of 500µm as shown in Figure 3 and Fig. 4 clearly reveals the particle size effect between iron ore tailings and sand. Within the same area, fewer particles of sand were seen compared with those of IOTs. This implies that the iron ore tailing has larger particles per surface area and can therefore combine effectively with cement to reduce the pores within the cement gel. This will also, drastically reduce the formation of capillary cavities. The microstructure of the concrete samples revealed that more pore space can be seen in concrete with no IOTs compared with those with IOTs. Figure 7 shows the FESEM morphology of concrete sample with no IOTs compared with that containing 30% iron ore tailings, in Figure 8. The structure of this concrete is characterized by the structure of the cement paste and by the structure of the aggregate. Since IOTs is the only variable in the concrete samples production, the crystalline nature of the tailings in terms of void less crystals or fragments of crystals, would have been responsible for the reduction in concrete pores and dense structure of the concrete samples containing iron ore tailings.

TABLE 2: PROPERTIES OF THE FRESH CONCRETE

Fresh Properties	Concrete Samples			
	CT0	CZT30	CLT40	CHT30
Slump [mm]	81	59	55	57
Compacting Factor	0.92	0.9	0.89	0.9

TABLE 3: PROPERTIES OF HARDENED CONCRETE

Concrete Samples	Compressive Strength N/mm <sup>2</sup>		Flexural Strength N/mm <sup>2</sup>		Tensile Strength N/mm <sup>2</sup>	
	7	28	7	28	7	28
	(Days)					
CT0	27.2	35.4	3.0	4.5	2.8	3.5
CZT30	31.8	43.7	3.6	4.8	3.4	3.9
CLT40	33.5	42.5	4.2	5.2	3.5	3.6
CHT30	34.5	45.0	4.2	5.3	3.0	3.5

TABLE 4: ULTRASONIC PULSE VELOCITY OF CONCRETE

Property	CT0	CZT30	CLT40	CHT30
Ultrasonic pulse velocity Km/s	4.35	4.39	4.37	4.41

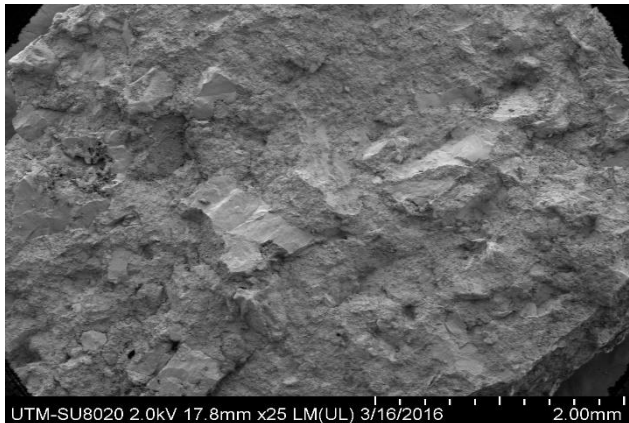


Figure 7: FESEM Morphology of conventional concrete



Figure 8: FESEM Morphology of HIOTs concrete

#### 4 CONCLUSION

This study has brought to focus the utilization in concrete, of three types of iron ore tailings sourced from different locations. Based on the outcome of study, the tailings improved the mechanical properties of concrete. This is an indication that iron ore tailings can be used as fine aggregate in concrete for structural applications. Therefore the material rather than being discarded can be effectively utilized in making concrete.

Considering the performance of concrete containing iron ore tailings in terms of modulus of rupture and splitting tensile strength tests results, this research has revealed that, the tailings can be used in concrete to improve the tensile behaviour of concrete.

The field emission scanning electron microscopy morphology of the concrete samples further confirms the intimate combination between the aggregate interface and the cement paste, due to no transition zone and no feasible cracks around the aggregate in concrete containing the tailings. This suggest that, this concrete can find applications where dense and water resisting

concrete are required, such as dam, swimming pool and water retaining tanks.

The pore structure of concrete samples containing iron ore tailings, also indicate that, the material is capable of satisfying the aesthetic requirement of concrete as well as improving the strength.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was sponsored by RUG of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia with research grant Number Q.J130000.2505.09H37. The authors are grateful for the contributions of Mr Hasibul and Mr Abdulrahman for materials collection at the iron ore mines. The effort of Mr Nurul Huda (Mine Inspector at ministry of Minerals and Geosciences, Malaysia) for giving vital information and other contributions towards the success of this research is forever appreciated. We also appreciate the support of all Technical staff of Department of Structures and Materials for their assistance in the laboratory.

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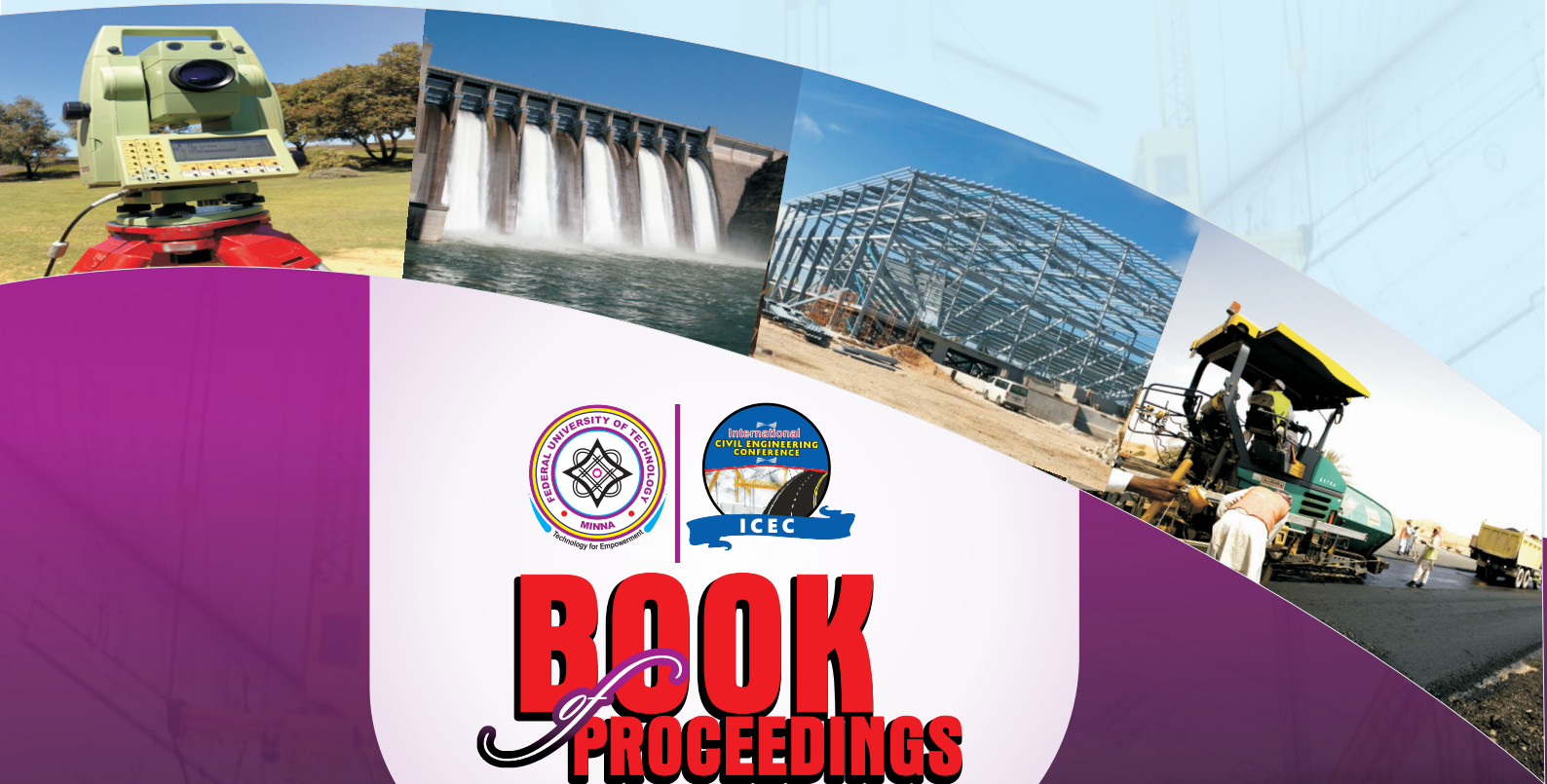
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