

Solid Waste Management: Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) Ppplication of Selecting Treatment Technology in Sepang Municipal Council, Malaysia

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(Received: January 11, 2011; Accepted: February 15, 2011)

ABSTRACT

The main issues with solid waste management today are to identify and select the most appropriate solid waste treatment technologies as well as disposal method in selected areas. However the decision making process is getting more complicated especially dealing with its cost efficiency. Thus, the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) was chosen to use as tools to facilitate the decision making task. It is a method developed to support multi-criteria decisions, effective and practical approach that consider complex and unstructured decision. One model was developed as General Hierarchy Structure Model (GHSM) for selecting an appropriate solid waste treatment technology. The models was structured into hierarchy consists of goal, criteria subcriteria and alternatives. Based on political support, technical expertise, environmental impact, market potential, community involvement and cost criteria, GHSM will give priority to recycling, composting, incineration or combination of technologies. The case study in Sepang Municipal Council, have shown that the combination of recycling and composting technology is the best alternative and suitable in Sepang area.

Key words: Solid Waste Management, Analytical Hierarchy Process, General Hierarchy Structure Model.

INTRODUCTION

Waste generally means 'something unwanted'. Its precise definition and scope however, differs from one country to another (Kaseva and Mbuligwe 2005). Waste is something for which we have no further use and which we wish to get rid. Solid wastes arises from unusable residue in raw materials, leftovers, rejects and scrap from process operations, used or scrap packaging materials and even saleable products themselves when they are finally discarded (Tchobanoglous *et al.* 1993).

Solid waste management is one of the three major environmental problems faced by municipalities in Malaysia (World Bank 1993). In Malaysia, solid waste generated consists of a heterogeneous mixture of materials including paper,

glass, metal, organic material, plastic in varying quantities – it is inevitable by – product of human activities. It is estimated that currently 17,000 tonnes of solid waste is generated daily in Peninsular Malaysia, and this estimation will increase to more than 30,000 tonnes per day by 2020 consequent upon the increasing population and per capita waste generation (MHLG 2005)

The amount of solid waste generated in large cities of developing countries is expected to increase significantly due to the rapid increase in population, urbanization, improvements in the standard of living and the changing of live style (Gottinger, 1991; Hassan, 2000). As a result from the huge amount of solid waste generated, many developing countries are facing serious problems in the disposal of their waste (Hassan, 2000). It is

becoming more difficult to find the suitable landfill sites within the collection areas and at the same time, the remaining operating lifespan of existing landfill sites is short. Uncontrolled generation of solid waste and minimal waste reduction and recycling at sources has shortened further the life span of these sites (Hassan 2000).

The selection of treatment technology and disposal of solid waste vary from one country to another and depends on the types of waste, composition, infrastructure, land availability, labour, economic aspects, recycling strategy, public awareness, calorific value of waste, energy availability and demand, and environmental impact (Agamuthu 2001). There is no universal best system for waste treatment and disposal (White *et al.* 1995). The selection of the best system for any given region can only be determined locally depending on both the composition and the quantities of waste generated, the availability of the disposal technologies (such as incinerator), and the market demand for the product derived from waste treatment (such as reclaimed material, compost and energy) (White *et al.* 1995). According to Wilson (1981) the selection criteria of the appropriate technologies for solid waste treatment and disposal depend on several criteria and these include economic, technical, environmental, and political objectives.

Basically the main objective of the study is to structure solid waste management problems into hierarchy to assist in decision making process in order to select the best and appropriate technology for solid waste management. Therefore Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) approach which was developed by Saaty (1980) was used in this study. Generally in the AHP, a problem is structured into a hierarchy. Which normally consists four levels of hierarchy structure such as goal level, criteria level, subcriteria level and alternative levels.

Methodology

Sepang Municipal Council (MPS) which used to be called Sepang District Council and change to its later name on 13th December 2005, under the Department of Environmental Health in Sepang district. Sepang district service has an area of 60 hectares and total population is about 55,000

(1991), 75,000 (1999) and to reach about 2.2 million people in year 2020. Basically Sepang Municipal Council district covers an area which is divided into three parts viz: Dengkil (29,395 hectares), Labu (29,395 hectares) and Sepang (2,044 hectares). These entire districts have a growth population reaching to 2.2 million. By having a huge area with a big community, a wide variety of solid waste is produced including organic, inorganic, commercial and landscape waste. The estimated solid waste generated in Sepang district is about 100 tonne per day, 3,000 tonne per month or 3,600 per year.

With the Stead by increasing in the number of people, it will also affect the generation rate and composition of solid waste in the area. Thus, Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) is suitable to be applied in solid waste management because it can help in making decision in selecting solid waste treatment more specifically and effectively. Basically, this is due to the fact that AHP being a hierarchy analysis technique which supports the creating process in various criteria and complex problem made easy. According to the explanation principle, of AHP pairwise comparison matrix and synthesis can further prove the choosing and suggestion process of certain technology effectively and suitable with the least cost. Therefore, Sepang Municipal Council who has responsibility to manage solid waste in the area should have and implement treatment technology for their solid waste in order to extend the life span of their landfill.

The AHP methodology basically are approached to (i) structure the decision into objectives and alternatives; (ii) measure objectives and alternatives using pairwise comparison; (iii) synthesise objectives; (iv) exploit subjective inputs in order to reach a prioritised list alternatives (Bertolini *et al.* 2006).

Basically this study has developed one model in solid waste management problems, namely General Hierarchy Structure Model (GHSM). GHSM was firstly steps are developed and consists of goal; criteria, subcriteria and alternative, and it were based 20 solid waste management textual sources and 30 questionnaires were distributed. The development of the hierarchy is fundamental to explain the problem structure more clearly and

specifically. Figure 1 show hierarchy structure for GHSM which consist of 1 goal (to select an appropriate technology), 6 criteria (political support, technical expertise, environmental impact, market potential, community involvement and cost), 12 subcriteria and 7 alternatives.

In order to determine sub-criteria for GHSM, 30 questionnaire surveys were distribute to solid waste expert consist of academician, researchers, stackholders, decision makers, policy makers in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur, Serdang, Bangi and Kajang in the Selangor state area. The selection of subcriteria was carried out using the Delphi method where those with the highest percentage in will be considered as subcriteria for GHSM. The following (1) was used to analysis the average value of the given scales and Table 1 show then data analysis for selected subcriteria to be filled in General Hierarchy Structure Model (GHSM).

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} / m \quad \dots(1)$$

n = Number of question
a_{ij} = Parallel Value
j = Vertical
m = Total of vertical value

The second step, was to do a pairwise comparison to the elements in the hierarchy. The scale ranges between 1-9 for pairwise comparison value according to Saaty scale following in table 2. Thus, numerical value is used as relative intensity of criteria if the alternatives are to be compared according to these criteria. Table 3 showed the example of pairwise comparison matrix constructed.

The third step was to synthesis the priority where it will rank the technology based on their benefits relative to the goal. Beside that's, the performance of pairwise comparison also being tested. The following performance calculation (2) was used as a governance equation to find the maximum value of Eigenvector, consistency index CI, consistency ratio CR, and normalized value for each criteria or alternative as below.

$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \times w_j}{W_i} \right\} \quad \dots(2)$$

Where λ_{\max} is the maximal or principal Eigenvector, and n is the matrix size, a_{ij} is and elements of pairwise comparison matrix, w_j and w_i is the j and i elements of values of Eigenvector, respectively. Therefore as a general rule, a consistency ratio of 0.10 or less is considered acceptable and the all data who obtained can use without any repeat procedure.

$$CI = \frac{\lambda_{\max} - n}{n - 1} \quad \dots(3)$$

$$CR = \frac{CI}{RI}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 5.36 show the pairwise comparison matrix between criteria to goal with the value acquired from Sepang municipal council expert. Thus the weight is vector for each of the comparison table and has to be coefficients to subcriteria .

After we obtained the result for the chosen appropriate technology based on the weight. Thus the next process is to select the solid waste treatment technology based on a specific technology with used PCM for selecting the highest weight of recycling technologies and select the specific weights for the weight composting. Specifically as a result of PCM is that we can choose the specific technology to be applied at the Sepang Municipal Council with better and effectively. Below are PCM analyses for specific recycling hierarchy and composting matrix.

Figure 4 shows the results of AHP analysis for General Hierarchy Structure Model. The value for pairwise comparison was provided by solid waste practitioner in Sepang Municipal Council. The overall

results shown that the combinations of recycling and composting technology were in the first ranking with the highest value (0.13), followed by incineration

(0.12), combination of recycling and incineration technology (0.10), combination of composting and incineration technology (0.09), recycling (0.08),

Table 1: Data Analysis for Selection of GHSM Subcriteria

Criteria Political Support	Total	Percentage (%)
Location	5.16	17.2
Public Acceptance	4.6	15.3
Criteria Technical Expertise	Total	Percentage (%)
Feasibility	5.3	17.6
Experience	5.04	16.8
Criteria Environmental Impact	Total	Percentage (%)
Water Pollution	3.78	12.6
Public Health	3.59	11.9
Criteria Market Potential	Total	Percentage (%)
Estimates Cost	3.83	12.7
Financial Management	3.76	12.5
Criteria Community Involvement	Total	Percentage (%)
Cooperation	7.57	25.2
Interest Message	6.98	23.2
Criteria Cost	Total	Percentage (%)
Operation Cost	8.87	29.5
Capital Cost	8.72	29.0

Table 2: Saaty's ratio scale

Verbal Judgment of Preference	Numerical Rating
Equal importance	1
Equal to moderate importance	2
Moderate importance	3
Moderate to strong importance	4
Strong importance	5
Strong to very strong importance	6
Very strong importance	7
Very strong to extreme importance	8
Extreme importance	9

composting (0.07), and lastly combination of recycling, composting and incineration technology (0.07).

Basically the value for pairwise comparison was found consistent where CR was below 0.1 otherwise, we need to revise the elements of the matrix to improve consistency. The original expectation was that a 10% consistency ratio (CR) is required for valid results (Saaty, 1980). If the comparisons are not perfectly consistent, then the AHP technique will provides a mechanism for improving consistency. It has been suggested that consistency is particularly difficult when decision-makers consider sustainable development aspect

Table 3: Example Pairwise Comparison Matrix for Recycling

Recycling	Criteria 1	Criteria 2	Criteria 3	Criteria n
Criteria 1	w_1/w_1	w_2/w_1	w_3/w_1	w_n/w_1
Criteria 2	w_1/w_2	w_2/w_2	w_3/w_2	w_n/w_2
Criteria n	w_1/w_n	w_2/w_n	w_3/w_n	w_n/w_n

Table 4: First Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Criteria to Goal

Goal	Political Support	Technical Expertise	Environmental Impact	Market Potential	Community Involvement	Cost	Weight
Political Support	1	1	1	1/3	1/2	1	0.11
Technical Expertise		1	1/2	1/2	1/4	1	0.10
Environmental Impact			1	1/2	1/2	1	0.13
Market Potential				1	1/2	2	0.23
Community Involvement					1	2	0.30
Cost						1	0.12

Table 4.1: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Political Support

Political Support	Location	Public Acceptance	Weight
Location	1	2	0.67
Public Acceptance		1	0.33

Table 4.2: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Technical Expertise

Technical Expertise	Feasibility	Experience	Weight
Feasibility	1	3	0.75
Experience		1	0.25

Table 4.3: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Environmental Impact

Environmental Impact	Water pollution	Public Health	Weight
Water pollution	1	2	0.67
Public Health		1	0.33

Table 4.4: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Market Potential

Market Potential	Estimates Cost	Financial Management	Weight
Estimates Cost	1	1/2	0.33
Financial Management		1	0.67

**Table 4.5: Second Level Pairwise Comparison
Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Community Involvement**

Community Involvement	Cooperation	Interest message	Weight
Cooperation	1	1	0.5
Interest message		1	0.5

**Table 4.6: Second Level Pairwise Comparison
Matrix: Subcriteria to Criteria - Cost**

Cost	Capital Cost	Operating Cost	Weight
Capital Cost	1	2	0.67
Operating Cost		1	0.33

Table 4.7: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria – Location (L)

L	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1/2	2	1	1/2	1	0.13
C		1	1/2	2	1	1	1	0.14
I			1	1/2	1	1	1	0.16
R+C				1	2	1/2	1	0.14
R+I					1	1/2	1	0.11
C+I						1	1	0.18
R+C+I							1	0.13

Table 4.8: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria - Public Acceptance (P.A)

P.A	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	0.13
C		1/2	1	1/2	1	1	1	0.12
I			1	1/2	1/2	1	1	0.13
R+C				1	1	1	1	0.16
R+I					1	1	1	0.17
C+I						1	1	0.16
R+C+I							1	0.14

Table 4.9: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria – Feasibility (F)

F	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	0.13
C		1	1/2	1	1/2	1	1	0.12
I			1	1/2	1	1	1	0.14
R+C				1	1	1	1	0.16
R+I					1	1	1	0.15
C+I						1	1	0.15
R+C+I							1	0.14

Table 4.10: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria Experience (E)

E	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1/4	1	1/4	2	1/5	1	0.09
C		1	1/2	1	1	1	1	0.15
I			1	2	2	1/2	1	0.17
R+C				1	2	1	1	0.16
R+I					1	1	1	0.11
C+I						1	1	0.19
R+C+I							1	0.13

Table 4.11: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Sub criteria - Water Pollution (W.P)

W.P	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1/3	2	1/2	1/2	0.12
C		1	1/2	2	1/2	1	1	0.13
I			1	1	2	2	1	0.18
R+C				1	1/2	2	1	0.16
R+I					1	1	1	0.15
C+I						1	1	0.12
R+C+I							1	0.15

Table 4.12: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria -Public Health (P.H)

P.H	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1/4	1/2	1	1/3	1	1/2	0.08
C		1	1/3	1	1/2	2	2	0.16
I			1	1/2	1	2	2	0.19
R+C				1	1	1	2	0.17
R+I					1	2	2	0.20
C+I						1	2	0.11
R+C+I							1	0.09

Table 4.13: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria - Estimates Cost (E.C)

E.C	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	0.13
C		1	1/2	1	1	1	1	0.13
I			1	1/2	1	1	1	0.14
R+C				1	2	2	1	0.20
R+I					1	1	1	0.13
C+I						1	1	0.14
R+C+I							1	0.14

Table 4.14: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria - Financial Management (F.M)

F.M	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1/4	1/4	1	1	1	1	0.09
C		1	1	1	1	2	1	0.18
I			1	2	1	2	2	0.22
R+C				1	2	2	2	0.17
R+I					1	2	2	0.14
C+I						1	2	0.10
R+C+I							1	0.10

Table 4.15: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria - Cooperation (Co)

Co	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.13
C		1	1/2	1	1	1	1	0.12
I			1	1/2	1	1	1	0.14
R+C				1	2	1/2	2	0.18
R+I					1	2	2	0.16
C+I						1	2	0.16
R+C+I							1	0.10

Table 4.16: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix Alternative to Subcriteria - Interest Message (I.M)

I.M	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.14
C		1	1	1	1	1	1	0.14
I			1	2	1/2	1	1	0.14
R+C				1	1	2	2	0.16
R+I					1	2	2	0.19
C+I						1	2	0.13
R+C+I							1	0.10

Table 4.18: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria - Capital Cost (C.C)

C.C	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	2	2	1	1	1/2	1/2	0.13
C		1	1/4	1	1	1/2	1	0.10
I			1	1/3	1	1/2	1	0.13
R+C				1	2	1/2	1	0.16
R+I					1	1	2	0.14
C+I						1	2	0.21
R+C+I							1	0.13

Table 4.19: Third Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix: Alternative to Subcriteria Operation Cost (O.C)

O.C	R	C	I	R+C	R+I	C+I	R+C+I	Weight
R	1	1	1	1	1/3	1	1/2	0.11
C		1	1/3	1/4	1	1	1/2	0.09
I			1	1	1	1	1/2	0.14
R+C				1	2	1	1/2	0.17
R+I					1	2	1	0.17
C+I						1	1	0.12
R+C+I							1	0.20

Table 4.20: The Ranking of Solid Waste Treatment Technology

Solid Waste Treatment Technology	Weight	Ranking
Recycling + Composting	0.13	1
Incineration	0.12	2
Recycling + Incineration	0.10	3
Composting + Incineration	0.09	4
Recycling	0.08	5
Composting	0.07	6
Recycling + Composting + Incineration	0.07	7

Table 5.1: First Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Recycling: Criteria to Goal

Goal	Location	Collection effective	Participation	Value of material	Weight
Location	1	1	1	1	0.25
Collection effective		1	1	1	0.25
Participation			1	1/2	0.21
Value of material				1	0.10

Table 5.2: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Recycling: Alternative to Criteria -Location

Location	Drop-off	Curbside	Buy-back centre	Weight
Drop-off	1	3	4	0.61
Curbside		1	1/2	0.05
Buy-back centre			1	0.22

Table 5.3: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Recycling: Alternative to Criteria -Collection Effective

Collection Effective	Drop-off	Curbside	Buy-back centre	Weight
Drop-off	1	5	6	0.72
Curbside		1	1/2	0.11
Buy-back centre			1	0.16

Table 5.4: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Recycling: Alternative to Criteria -Participation

Participation	Drop-off	Curbside	Buy-back centre	Weight
Drop-off	1	5	5	0.70
Curbside		1	1/2	0.11
Buy-back centre			1	0.18

Table 5.5: Second Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Recycling: Alternative to Criteria -Value of Material

Value of Material	Drop-off	Curbside	Buy-back centre	Weight
Drop-off	1	5	6	0.73
Curbside		1	1	0.14
Buy-back centre			1	0.13

Table 5.6: The overall results for the specific selecting of recycling technology

Recycling Options	Weight	Ranking
Drop – off	0.72	1
Buy – back center	0.15	2
Curbside	0.12	3

Table 5.7: First Level Pairwise Comparison Matrix of Specific Composting: Criteria to Goal

Goal	Community	Available	Cost	Operation	Maintenance	Weight
Community	1	3	2	1/2	1	0.21
Available		1	2	1/4	2	0.14
Cost			1	1/4	1	0.09
Operation				1	4	0.42
Maintenance					1	0.11

Table 5.8: Second level pairwise comparison matrix of specific composting: Alternative to criteria - community

Community	Turning windrow	Aerated static pile	In-vessel	Weight
Turned windrow	1	1	2	0.4
Aerated static pile		1	2	0.4
In-Vessel			1	0.2

Table 5.9: Second level pairwise comparison matrix of specific composting: Alternative to criteria - available

Available	Turning windrow	Aerated static pile	In-vessel	Weight
Turned windrow	1	5	2	0.56
Aerated static pile		1	1/5	0.09
In-Vessel			1	0.35

Table 5.10: Second level pairwise comparison matrix of specific composting: Alternative to criteria - operation

Cost	Turning windrow	Aerated static pile	In-vessel	Weight
Turned windrow	1	5	1	0.36
Aerated static pile		1	1/6	0.07
In-Vessel			1	0.45

Table 5.11: Second level pairwise comparison matrix of specific composting: Alternative to criteria - operation

Operation	Turning windrow	Aerated static pile	In-vessel	Weight
Turned windrow	1	5	1	0.42
Aerated static pile		1	1/6	0.12
In-Vessel			1	0.45

Table 5.12: Second level pairwise comparison matrix of specific composting: Alternative to criteria -maintenance

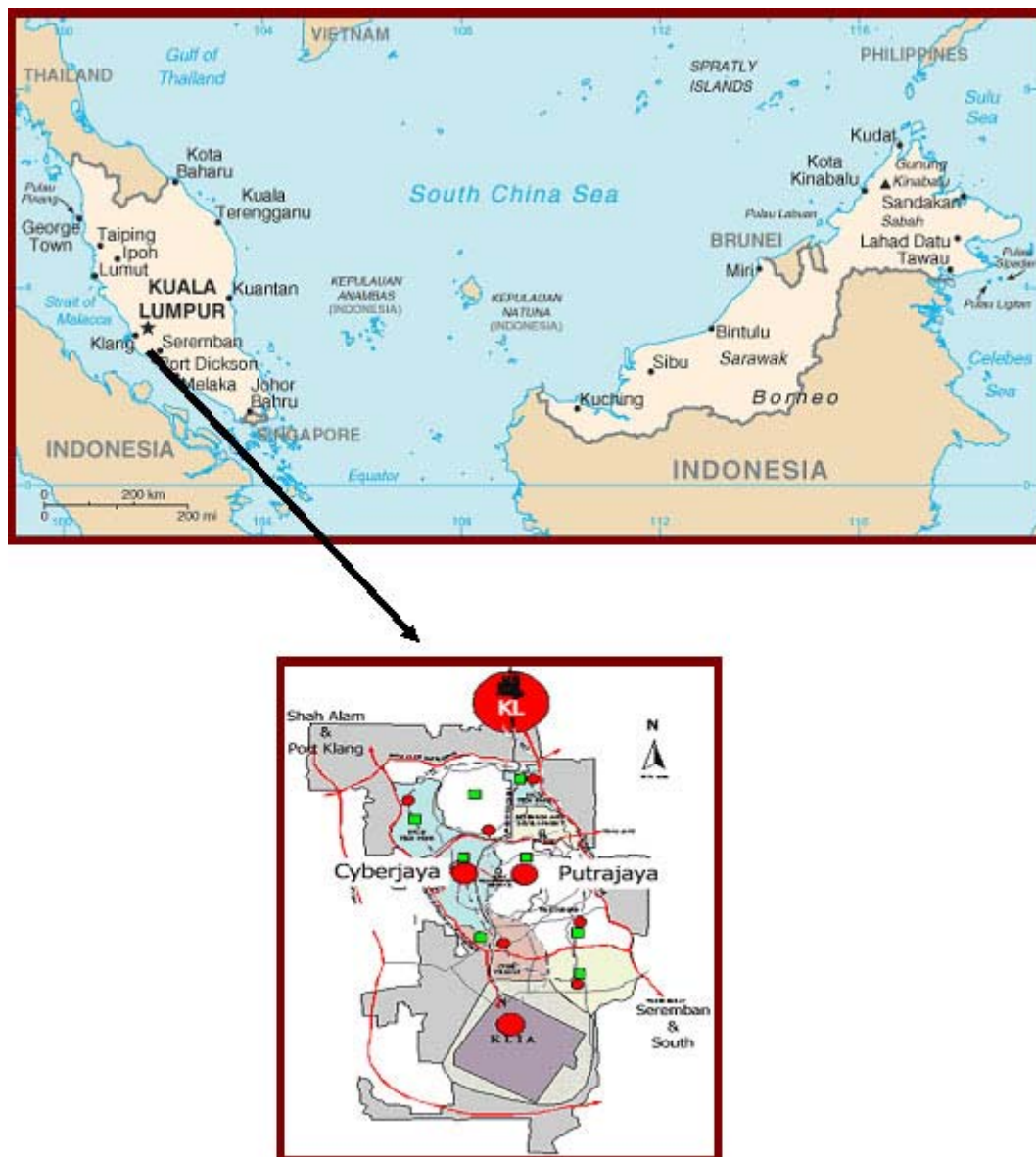
Maintenance	Turning windrow	Aerated static pile	In-vessel	Weight
Turned windrow	1	7	4	0.68
Aerated static pile		1	1/5	0.07
In-Vessel			1	0.25

Table 5.13: The overall results for the specific selecting of composting technology

Composting Options	Weight	Ranking
In - Vessel	0.61	1
Turned Windrow	0.54	2
Aerated Static Pile	0.27	3

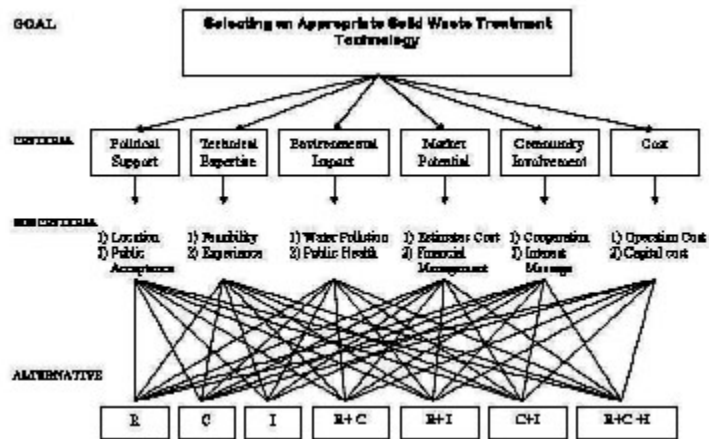
(Noble, 2004). Thus at the final stage, a basic sensitivity analysis was performed to test the sensitivity of the outcome and determine the critical evaluation criteria that affect the selection.

Fig. 5 showed the plot radar for ranking weight. Based on the plot radar, combination of R+C is at top line and very suitable to practice as well as



Sources: www.kiat.net/msc/images/cyberjaya-map.gif

Fig. 1: Case study area in Sepang Municipal Council



R : Recycling

C : Composting

I : Incineration

R+C : Combination Recycling + Composting

R+I : Combination Recycling + Incineration

C+I : Combination Composting + Incineration

R+C+I : Combination recycling + Composting + Incineration

Fig. 2: General hierarchy structure model

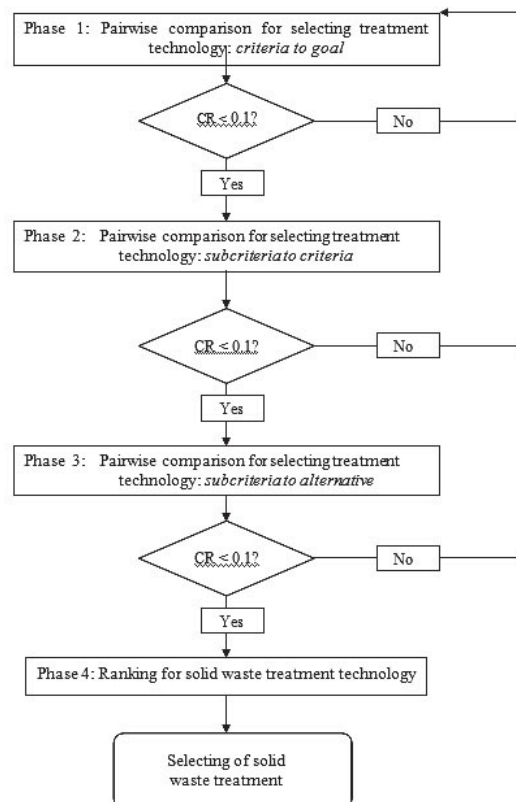


Fig. 3: Flow Chart of the AHP Step Measurement

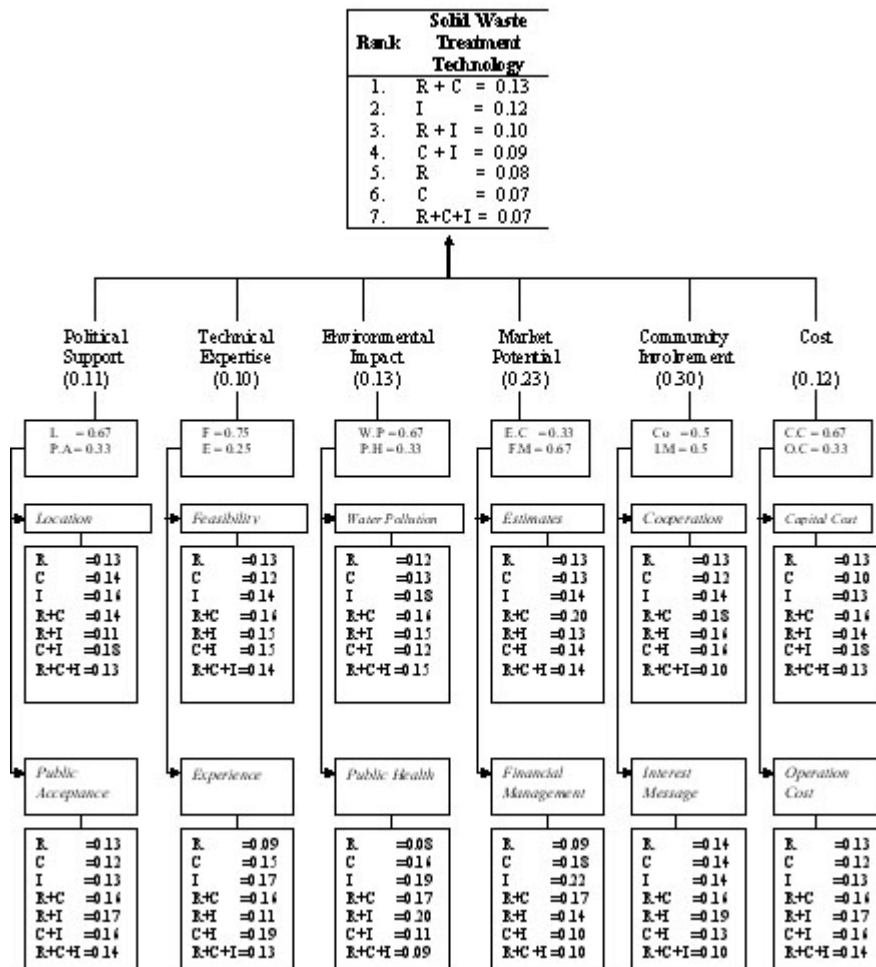


Fig. 4: AHP analysis for general hierarchy structure model

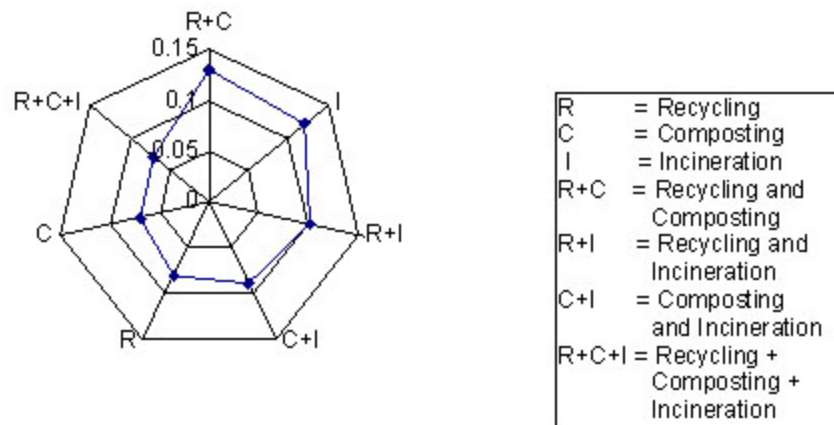


Fig. 5: Plot radar selecting solid waste treatment technology

to be implement. These result also obviously based on variation in the criteria weight impact the ranking of the alternatives in order to found the best selection of solid waste treatment technology in Sepang Municipal Council.

CONCLUSION

This paper presents the application of Analytical Hierarchy Process procedure to assist solid waste practitioner to choose the best and appropriate treatment technology for Sepang area. By using AHP procedure, both subjective and objective evaluation measures were considered in decision making process. Besides, AHP also provides a useful mechanism for checking the consistency of the evaluation measure thus reducing bias in decision making.

The Analytical Hierarchy Process not only offers some advantages over traditional decision methods, but it can integrate with those other approaches to take advantage of the strength inherent in each. Considering the complexity of most management issue in solid waste management at Sepang, the AHP can extend to a wide array of managerial and planning. The overall performance was evaluated to be satisfactory based on the case studies in Malaysia. This decision making tool is useful in avoiding ill-informed decisions where expertise and resources are scarce.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Ministry of Sciences, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia for sponsoring this research under Science Fund Research Grant (01-01-04-SF0675).

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