

# Dry mortar lab to be set up to improve quality

## Staff Report

DUBAI — A state-of-the-art sophisticated dry mortar laboratory for quality control will be established at the Dubai Municipality's Dubai Central Laboratory (DCL) with the cooperation of Middle East Dry Mix Mortar Association (MEDMA) in two years.

An MoU was signed between Engr. Hawa Bastaki, Director of DCL, and Laith Haboubi, President of MEDMA on Wednesday at the Middle East Conference on Sustainable Building Materials in Dubai.

Engr. Bastaki said that this lab will lay emphasis on testing and evaluation of dry mortar which will help to improve the building performance in Dubai.

Ferdinand Leopolder, president of The International Community for Dry-mix Mortar and secretary general of MEDMA, told Khaleej Times that the organisation would develop the standards and implement them in the UAE and beyond in the GCC for mortars.

He said that the existing facility for mortars at the DCL would eventually become the Middle East Competitiveness Centre for Dry Mix Mortar.

He said that negotiations for the MoU had started in April, 2010.

"Our goal is to develop sustainable and durable buildings that last for a long time without the need for restoration and revovation," Leopolder said.

The two-day conference was organised by DCL in cooperation with MEDMA as part of Dubai Municipality's effort to make awareness on the green building concept. The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates from different sectors of the construction industry.

The conference is being conducted in four sessions where experts from various institutions made presentation on different topics related to sustain-

able building materials. Engr. Ali Elian, Head of Engineering Material Section of DCL, made a presentation on the function of Dubai Central Laboratory in assuring the use of sustainable building materials, testing facilities, conforming mask and certification of materials at DCL.

Other presentations included by Dr. Hedge Keplan from Dr. Robert Murrain Institute, on the external thermal insulation composite systems, Thosten Schneider from Henkel Polybit on sustainable tilling system with dustfree, light weight and anti-fungus technologies, Dr. Salah Al Toubat of University of Sharjah on Sustainable SCC through the use of High volume fly ash and slag to reduce cement in SCC and the effect on its cracking potential.

Dr. Mufid Somaral from Sharjah Academy for scientific research made a presentation on the role of engineers in conservation of heritage and historic buildings, Dirk Stoetzer from Knauf on sustainable construction using gypsum boards, Brown Joseph from DOW Chemicals on reducing over heating in building by use of cool reflective roof coatings, Mario from Green technologies on the use of green building materials in construction and their impact on rating systems, Richard Reynolds from Masdar City on how Masdar is greening its supply chain and Tarana from IBS MAPEI on building chemistry goes green.

The delegates would visit Dubai Central Laboratory on Thursday, where Engr. Hawa Bastaki, Director of Dubai Central Laboratory and Engr. Ali Elian would explain the activities of Dubai Central Laboratory such as testing, certification, DCL Quality mark and technical approval of different types of materials. The delegates as small groups would visit the testing facility of Dubai Central Laboratory. — [business@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:business@khaleejtimes.com)

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