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# Green technologies gain understanding, popularity

Staff Reporter

DUBAI — Green building technologies are increasingly gaining understanding and popularity among the construction industry in the UAE.

The importance of green buildings and their positive impact on people and environment was highlighted at the two-day Middle East Conference on Sustainable Building Materials in Dubai that concluded on Thursday.

An entire session was devoted to green buildings. The conference was organised by Dubai Municipality's Dubai Central Laboratory (DCL) with the cooperation of Middle East Dry Mix Mortar Association.

Tarana Daroogar of Mapei, makers of adhesives, sealants and chemical products for buildings, said that buildings with good environmental quality can reduce the rate of respiratory disease, sick building syndrome and enhance worker performance.

She said that the recent advancements in chemistry allow to formulate dry mix products that can provide significant contributions in the reduction of the impact of constructions on human health and environment.

Explaining the benefits deriving from the use of drymix products, Tarana said that a careful choice of the organic additives contained in the formulations and a properly optimised composition can reduce the impact of construction chemicals onto the health of the final building. Secondly, the use of dry-mix products compared to traditional building techniques allows a more efficient use of resources, usually requiring much lower material consumptions.

Thirdly, drymix products and formulation can accommodate certain quantities of recycled materials thereby decreasing the consumption of natural resources.

Tarana said that people spend 85 to 90 percent of their time indoors where hundreds of volatile components have been detected. She said in Europe 20 percent of the population suffers from asthma and other allergic diseases caused by substances typically present in indoor environment.

She said that the quality of building materials and chemicals used in the construction is a fundamen-

tal parameter determining indoor air quality. Many building materials emit toxic gases such as volatile organic compounds and formaldehyde, that can have a detrimental impact on occupants' health.

Tarana said that drymix construction products can contribute to sustainable, or "green" construction practices in several ways. The chemistry and formulation of dry mix products in particular the type and quantity of polymers used provides a direct contribution to performance but also have a direct impact on the environment.

She said that they help in improving the air quality in the jobsite, before building occupancy, reducing the amount of dust produced during product mixing, decreasing the amount of VOC (volatile organic compound) emitted during their lifecycle – which is often overlooked post application of products

Tarana said that they also help in minimising the environmental impact by using recyclable materials, that reduce the consumption of natural resources, and light aggregates that contribute to decrease transportation CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) and manufacturing locally where possible.

In his presentation on the use of green building materials in construction and their impact onto rating systems, Mario Seneviratne of Green Technologies Dubai, which provide sustainability solutions from concept to completion, said that the UAE is committed to the global green drive.

He said that the UAE leadership has introduced a separate category for Corporate Social Responsibility which is testimony to their commitment to make social and environmental sustainability an integral part of business excellence.

In his presentation on how Masdar is greening its supply chain, Richard Reynolds of Masdar City, said that the 700 ha Masdar City in Abu Dhabi aimed at highest quality of life with the lowest environmental footprint that is commercially viable.

Explaining the challenges, he said that green design and construction demands greater analysis of product data for evaluation, specification, selection and documentation. Reynolds said: "We look forward to assisting you to deliver increased sustainable development and product outcomes at [www.thefuturebuild.com](http://www.thefuturebuild.com) which is coming to you in March." — [business@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:business@khaleejtimes.com)

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