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IMM Fingerprinting Forum



Taking questions: The panel of speakers headed by Dr. Chia Chin Hua (5th from left), with Dr. Chan Chin Han, Chairman of IMM Polymer Committee (3rd from left).

Kelana Jaya 22 March 2013

Interest was very high in the IMM forum on "Towards Fingerprinting of Polymeric Coatings" which attracted a large crowd comprising of manufacturers of coatings, suppliers of testing instruments, researchers and users of coatings. Participants want to know if fingerprinting of polymeric coatings is possible in this present time with new and advanced technology available.

Organised by the IMM Polymer Committee, four papers representing the observations of the speakers were presented during the forum. Components of epoxy polymers were made known, the feasibility of fingerprinting was questioned, how new instruments can play a role in fingerprinting and how the industry seeks concrete answers to quality of paints used in projects were discussed in detail.

Such was the importance of fingerprinting that there were calls for another forum to be held soon.

The forum is aimed at dispelling the notion that there is no way to identify polymer products in the same way as metallic products like the mill certificate, etc. Polymers should have their own "Mill Certificates & QC test reports" so-to-speak, so that customers and users can be assured that the contents of the polymer product are as per specifications. The first step towards this initiative will focus on the more common product used in the oil & gas industry i.e. the epoxy coatings, as a basis for discussion. Of course, "Fingerprinting" involves more than just the mill certificate e.g. inspection & test reports, production QC reports, raw materials inspection reports, etc. This Forum is aimed at brainstorming the possibilities of using the latest scientific technologies and materials testing technologies during the paint manufacturing & in-house laboratory QC testing process to establish some form of "Fingerprinting" for polymeric coatings. The ultimate objective is to provide assurance that protective coating products have been manufactured according to original product formula specifications.

Note: Another session on this topic will be held in Johore in October 2013.

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