

Greening the Slopes – Public Works Department of Malaysia (JKR) Experiences towards Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Greening newly formed slopes has not been treated with respect that it certainly deserved. That is one of the reasons why many slopes that fail to be greened after several attempts within the contract and defect liability periods were left barren until such time that the erosion becomes the talk of the town or landslide would occur and only then something is actually done. JKR has plenty of experiences on greening these slopes initially using closely turfed cow grass, then, followed by hydroseeding, using vertiver grass and more recently using hydroseeding with slopes covered with biodegradable fibre erosion control blanket. Since the establishment of the Slope Engineering Branch in 2004, studies on greening the slopes were carried out in earnest to establish effective means of erosion control especially for difficult to green slopes along the federal roads. As a result of these studies, guidelines for slope bio-engineering have been produced. The paper describes the path that JKR has trodden to green the slopes along the federal and state roads.