

**DEVELOPMENT OF A LOW COST INSULATION
SYSTEM USING BOTTOM ASH FOR CFRP-
CONCRETE COMPOSITES**

Kahandawa Arachchige Dona Yamali Tharika Kahandawa Arachchi

198040T

Degree of Master of Science

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

July 2020

**DEVELOPMENT OF A LOW COST INSULATION
SYSTEM USING BOTTOM ASH FOR CFRP-
CONCRETE COMPOSITES**

Kahandawa Arachchige Dona Yamali Tharika Kahandawa Arachchi

198040T

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of
Science in Civil Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

July 2020

DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other university or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

Also, I hereby grant to University of Moratuwa the non-exclusive right to reproduce and distribute the thesis, in whole or in part in print, electronic or other medium. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

Signature:

Date:

The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters under my supervision.

Name of the supervisor: Dr. (Mrs.) J.C.P.H. Gamage

Signature of the supervisor:

Date:

Name of the supervisor: Dr. G.I.P. De Silva

Signature of the supervisor:

Date:

ABSTRACT

The civil engineering industry is moving towards more greener and sustainable means of construction materials today. Improving the thermal comfort in buildings while conserving the natural resources is essential to maintain the ecological balance whilst improving health, wellbeing and productivity of humans. On the other hand, concrete structures have been the main construction element for the past five decades. Retrofitting these concrete structures using fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) has been a popular trend in the recent years. An insulation material has been developed using bottom ash which is a byproduct of the coal power generation process. The developed plaster could be used for either thermal comfort in buildings or as a cementitious insulation material for CFRP/Concrete composites. The research was conducted in four phases. Properties of bottom ash and properties of developed material were investigated in the first two phases. Modification of developed insulation material and application of CFRP/Concrete composites were investigated in the latter two phases. A N-type plaster was developed by replacing fine aggregates in conventional cement sand plaster by bottom ash. 60% of the sand was replaced by bottom ash. A thickness of 20 mm of the developed plaster can decrease the heat transfer 45% than conventional plaster. Furthermore, the developed plaster is 8% more cost effective than conventional plaster.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research addresses one of the main concerns of the civil engineering industry when it comes for Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites. The knowledge I gained through my undergraduate work and post graduate studies has been a great influence in completing this project up to the standards.

There are many individuals to whom I owe this success to. Foremost, I would like to acknowledge my research supervisors, **Dr. (Mrs.) J.C.P.H. Gamage**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa and **Dr. G.I.P. De Silva**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa. Without their guidance none of this would be possible.

Next, I would like to thank **Dr.(Mrs.) H.L.D.M.A. Judith**, Chairman, Research and Development Division, Road Development Authority, Chairperson of my Research Assessment Panel and **Prof. A.A.D.J. Perera**, Senior Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, research coordinator (Nominee) for evaluating and guiding throughout the research progress presentations.

I would like to appreciate the National Research Council, Sri Lanka and Airow Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd. for the financial support of the project (Grant No. PPP18-01). Specially, **Mrs. Naduni Wanniarachchi**, Scientific Officer, National Research Council and **Mr. Vajira Attanayake**, General Manager, Airow Solutions (pvt.) Ltd. for their support.

Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude to **Mr. D.M.N.L. Dissanayaka** of Structural Testing Laboratory and **Mr. H.T.R.M. Thanthirige** of Building Materials Laboratory, University of Moratuwa for their support throughout the experimental program.

At last but not least, I would like to thank my parents and family for believing me and supporting throughout these years.

K.A.D.Y.T.K. Arachchi
Department of Civil Engineering,
University of Moratuwa.
2020.07.10

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

International Conferences

1. **K.A.D.Y.T. Kahandawa Arachchi**, J.C.P.H. Gamage and G.I.P. De Silva, “Thermal insulation systems for CFRP/Concrete Composites: A Review”, in *International Conference on Structural and Construction Management*, 2019 - Published
2. **K.A.D.Y.T. Kahandawa Arachchi**, J.C.P.H. Gamage and E.R.K. Chandrathilake, “Bond Performance of Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) strengthened Reinforced Curved Beams”, in *International Conference on Civil Engineering and Applications*, 2019 – Published
3. **K.A.D.Y.T. Kahandawa Arachchi**, J.C.P.H. Gamage and G.I.P. De Silva, “Modification of a Bottom Ash Based Insulation Material using Saw Dust, EPS and Aggregate Chips”, in *International Conference on Structural and Construction Management*, 2020 - Submitted

International Journals

1. A. Selvaratnam, **K.A.D.Y.T. Kahandawa Arachchi**, S. Kajian and J.C.P.H. Gamage, “Behavior of Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer strengthened out-of-plane Curved Reinforced Concrete beams” – In Preparation
2. **Kahandawa Arachchi K.A.D.Y.T.**, Selvaratnam A., Gamage J.C.P.H. and De Silva G.I.P, “Development of an Innovative Insulated Plaster using Bottom Ash to Enhance Thermal Comfort in Buildings” – In Preparation
3. **K.A.D.Y.T. Kahandawa Arachchi**, A. Selvaratnam, J.C.P.H. Gamage, V. Attanayaka, “Development and Application of a Bottom Ash based Cementitious Insulation material on CFRP/Concrete Composites” – In preparation
4. Selvaratnam A., **Kahandawa Arachchi K.A.D.Y.T.**, Gamage J.C.P.H, “Experimental and Numerical analysis of an Innovative Wall Plaster Developed using Recycled EPS to Enhance the Thermal Comfort in Buildings” – In preparation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	iv
International Conferences	iv
International Journals.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	x
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Research Background.....	1
1.2 Objectives.....	2
1.3 Methodology	2
1.4 Research Significance	2
1.5 Arrangement of the thesis	3
2 Literature Review.....	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Cementitious insulation materials	7
2.2.1 Available systems	7
2.2.2 Thermal properties of cementitious insulation systems.....	8
2.2.3 Sustainable materials for insulated motor developments.....	9
2.3 Bottom ash.....	10
2.3.1 Properties of Bottom-ash (BA)	10
2.3.2 Bottom ash as a partial replacement for fine aggregates	12
2.3.3 Increasing thermal resistivity using BA.....	13
2.4 Insulation materials for CFRP/Concrete composites	14
2.5 Summary	16
2.6 Further research needs.....	16
3 Physical and Chemical structure of Bottom ash – Phase 1	17
3.1 Introduction	17
3.2 Experimental program.....	18
3.3 Results and Discussion.....	18
3.3.1 SEM imaging	18

3.3.2	XRD analysis	20
3.3.3	Chemical analysis	22
3.3.4	Particle size distribution.....	23
3.4	Summary	24
4	Physical and meCHANical properties of the developed Plaster – Phase 2	25
4.1	Introduction	25
4.2	Experimental program.....	26
4.2.1	Materials	26
4.2.2	Sample Preparation	27
4.3	Results and Discussion.....	29
4.3.1	Thermal conductivity	29
4.3.2	Compressive Strength	32
4.4	Experimental program.....	34
4.4.1	Materials	34
4.5	Sample preparation.....	34
4.6	Results and Discussion.....	35
4.7	Summary	40
5	Heat Transfer Analysis	41
5.1	Introduction	41
5.2	Procedure.....	41
5.3	Calculation	43
5.4	Summary	44
6	Modification of developed plaster – Phase 3	45
6.1	Introduction	45
6.2	Experimental program.....	46
6.2.1	Materials	46
6.2.2	Sample preparation	47
6.2.3	Results and Discussion	48
6.3	Summary	51
7	Application of Developed Plaster on CFRP/Concrete Composites – Phase 4... 52	
7.1	Introduction	52
7.2	Experimental program.....	53

7.2.1	Materials	53
7.2.2	Sample preparation	54
7.3	Results and Discussion	55
7.4	Experimental program	58
7.4.1	Sample preparation	58
7.5	Results and Discussion	61
7.6	Summary	63
8	Cost Analysis	64
9	Conclusions and Recommendations	66
9.1	Conclusions	66
9.2	Recommendations	67
	REFERENCES	68
	Annexes	xi
	Annex 1 – Thermal conductivity testing cooling curves	xi
	Annex 2 – Furnace test results	xv
	Annex 3 – Datasheet	xx
	Annex 4 - Publications	xxiv

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Overview of the test series	4
Figure 2-1 - Overview of literature review	6
Figure 2-2 - Thermocouple Locations	7
Figure 2-3 - How pore spaces increase thermal performance (Udawatte et al).....	8
Figure 2-4 - Thermal conductivity testing methods (Asadi et al).....	9
Figure 2-5 - Morphology of bottom ash (Cherif et al.)	11
Figure 3-1 - Overview of phase 1	17
Figure 3-2 - Bottom ash physical appearance.....	18
Figure 3-3 - Morphology a) Literature (Cherif et al) b) Current Study	19
Figure 3-4 - XRD Imaging - Literature (Mal'Chik et al) [62].....	20
Figure 3-5 - RD imaging - Current Study	21
Figure 3-6 - Sieve analysis.....	23
Figure 4-1 - Overview - Phase 2	25
Figure 4-2 - Iterative process	26
Figure 4-3 - Materials – a) Cement b) Sand c) Bottom ash	27
Figure 4-4 - Thermal conductivity samples - a) Molds b) Casting c) Curing.....	28
Figure 4-5 - Lee's disc apparatus	28
Figure 4-6 - a) Compressive strength test cubes b) Compressive strength testing	29
Figure 4-7 Thermal conductivity variation	31
Figure 4-8 - Variation of compressive strength	32
Figure 4-9 - Materials measured for BA60.....	34
Figure 4-10 - Compressive strength and workability variation	36
Figure 4-11 – a) Plaster without admixture b) Plaster with admixture.....	37
Figure 4-12 - Variation of density with amount of Superplasticizer	39
Figure 5-1 - Schematic Diagram for heat transfer	41
Figure 5-2 - Lee's Disc apparatus a) test setup b) Computer program.....	41
Figure 5-3 - Cooling curve for BA0	42
Figure 6-1- Overview of phase 3	45
Figure 6-2 – a) Polystyrene (EPS) b) Saw dust	46
Figure 6-3 - Aggregate chips passing through $\mu 00$ mm sieve	47

Figure 6-4 Compressive strength cubes a) EPS and saw dust b) Aggregate chips 40% and 50%	48
Figure 6-5 -Variation of a) Compressive Strength b) Flow c) Thermal Conductivity	49
Figure 6-6 Flow table test a) EPS b) Saw dust c) Aggregate chips 40% d) Aggregate chips 50%	50
Figure 7-1 - Overview of phase 4	52
Figure 7-2 - Ingredients of BA60 a) bottom ash b) cement c) river sand d) admixture	53
Figure 7-3 - a) Coarse aggregates b) CFRP fabric c) Adhesive - base d) Adhesive - Hardener.....	54
Figure 7-4 - a) Sand blasted blocks b) Application of CFRP and thermo-couples....	54
Figure 7-5 - Schematic diagram for arrangement of thermo couples	55
Figure 7-6 - a) Application of insulation layer b) Testing in Furnace	55
Figure 7-7 - Temperature variation	57
Figure 7-8- a) Sand blasted blocks b) Application of CFRP and thermo couples	58
Figure 7-9 - Schematic diagram.....	59
Figure 7-10 - a) Application of insulation layer b) Halogen lamps for elevating temperature	59
Figure 7-11 - a) Universal testing machine (UTM) b) Pullout failure.....	60
Figure 7-12 - Shear lap test results and variation of average pullout strength with temperature	62
Figure 8-1 - Cost comparison	65
Figure 0-1 - Schematic diagram of an insulation system	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Figure 0-2 - How pore spaces improve thermal performance (Udawattha et al)	Error! Bookmark not defined.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1 - Insulation Thickness (Ranasinghe et al).....	7
Table 2-2 – Chemical Composition of BA (Hendawitharana et al).....	11
Table 2-3- Thermal Properties of Insulation Materials (Dong et al)	16
Table 3-1 - Chemical Composition.....	22
Table 4-1 - Mix proportions.....	27
Table 4-2 - Control sample thermal conductivity literature review.....	29
Table 4-3 - Thermal Conductivity results	30
Table 4-4- Compressive strength results.....	32
Table 4-5 - Modified mix proportions	35
Table 4-6 - Results for compressive strength and workability of BA60 with different w/c ratios	35
Table 4-7- Average test results	37
Table 5-1 - Lee's disc method results.....	44
Table 6-1 - Mix proportions.....	46
Table 6-2 - Mix proportions for Aggregate chips	47
Table 6-3 - Results for mechanical and physical properties of modified mixes.....	48
Table 7-1 -Material properties of FRP and adhesive	53
Table 7-2 - Thermal analysis test results - Summary	56
Table 7-3 - Results for single lap shear test.....	61
Table 8-1 - Cost analysis.....	64