

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE BEGINNING 2023

We wish to inform that the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA) will be raising its membership fee by 25% in all membership categories beginning 2023. The new structure for membership fees will be as follows:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	MEMBERSHIP FEE CATEGORIES	CURRENT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE AMOUNT (RM)	25% INCR. (RM)	MEMBERSHIP FEE AFTER 25% INCR. (RM)
ORDINARY	20 employees & below	300	75	375
	21 to 50 employees	400	100	500
	51 to 100 employees	600	150	750
	101 to 150 employees	800	200	1,000
	151 employees & above	1,000	250	1,250
ASSOCIATE	All categories	1,200	300	1,500

BACKGROUND

The decision to announce an increase in membership fees is not an easy one given that the Central Committee (CC) is aware of the challenges faced by our members. In this regard, the CC has deferred making this decision over the last few years, despite the pressures of the rising costs of providing services to the members and for the industry.

However, it is to be noted that the last membership fee increase was 15 years ago, that is, in 2007 while the cost of providing the services to members and to the industry has escalated over the years without a corresponding increase in membership fees to help defray the substantial increase in costs. We regret to inform that MPMA is therefore unable to further defer an increase in membership fees as the income/cost differential will adversely affect MPMA's ability to provide the services to our members at the desired level.

For members' information, there was no increase in membership fee from 1992 to before the last increase in 2007. This means that there would be only two (2) increases (i.e., in 2007 and in 2023) in membership fee from 1992 to 2023, which is over a period of 31 years.

We wish to seek the understanding of our members that this increase in membership fee is needed for MPMA to continue to provide the core activities and to continue to develop the plastics industry in Malaysia.

We wish to highlight some of MPMA's core activities.

ADVOCACY & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In keeping with its mission to represent as the voice of the plastics industry locally and internationally, MPMA works to influence policies. Some of the key issues that MPMA had influenced to advance the plastics industry includes the continuation of the Reinvestment Allowance (RA); lifting the freeze on the employment of foreign workers, the need for the plastics industry supply chain to continue to operate during the pandemic; allowing plastics scrap imports with proper rules in place; helping the Government to understand the impact of curtailing plastics raw materials production in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) discussions for the introduction of a global plastics agreement, etc.

International trade is an important and growing element of members' operations as they seek to retain and enhance their competitive positions both domestically and abroad. MPMA stands ready to assist members with international trade and actively works to promote the trade interests of MPMA's members in a multitude of forums, including the K Show; Chinaplas; Asia Plastics Forum; COMPAMED, etc.

SUSTAINABILITY

Too often we see and hear of groups criticizing plastics and using unscientific information. This perception has impacted the industry in the introduction of bans on plastics, global proposals to curtail the production of plastics raw materials and proposals to switch to alternative materials. All these actions would not only harm the plastics industry which employs 150,000 workers, but it would also harm our environment and our society.

Hence, plastics sustainability is a key activity for MPMA. No other Trade Association has promoted plastics sustainability in the form or manner that MPMA has done over the past years. Amongst the activities undertaken by MPMA include the Don't be a Litterbug Campaign; Plastics is Recyclable and 3Rs Campaigns; Working with partners such as Petronas Chemicals Group (PCG), to build content on the proper use of plastics that today is now available in all schools; the Green Truck, which is an effort sponsored by ExxonMobil and Scientex Group to provide recycling demonstrations using simple recycling machines, etc.

More activities on plastics sustainability is needed with the rise of global issues such as plastics impact on climate change; companies and their carbon footprint; circular economy adoption that requires businesses to report on usage of recycling content in products via certification processes and business compliances covering Environment, Social and Governance (ESG).

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Plastics processing operations are not simple to run. The processor has to span many engineering disciplines. Many interactions and variables complicate the entire process. The best processors have a workforce with an in-depth understanding of many subjects including material science, machinery, tooling, documentation, equipment, quality, processing as well as industry best practices. Plastics companies require structured, ongoing training plans to develop their talent. Given the circumstances, MPMA have had to develop, draw-up and conduct structured training for its members to get the industry to the next level of skills and competitiveness in the last two decades.

Some of the training activities include the MPMA-Talent Development Programme, from 2012 – 2015; First Step to Injection Moulding 4.0, from 2017 – 2018; Industrial Skills Framework for the Malaysian Plastics Industry, from 2019 – 2020; Formation of the Malaysian Plastics Industry Talent Accreditation Council in 2019; 2U2i Bachelor in Polymer Technology (Honours) Programme with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Terengganu in 2021; Penjana Kerjaya UniKL - Talent Development and Employability Programme for the Malaysian Plastics Industry, from 2019 till Current.

In addition to training activities, MPMA also hosts industry-leading events every year. The most recent being the MPMA Plastech Month, which took place in November 2021. The technical webinars, which ran over nine sessions covering five weeks was designed for leading technology innovators and pioneers to showcase insights and perspectives on how technology can positively shape our future.

CONCLUSION

MPMA is the only trade association that supports the entire plastics supply chain. Founded in 1967, we have been fostering collaboration between each segment of the industry and developing alongside the plastics industry.

With the increased attention on plastics, we are here to connect members and encourage technology and innovation to meet the needs of tomorrow. We've expanded our resources over the years to help members come together and positively shape the future of the industry.

With this said, we look forward to our members continued support for MPMA.

Thank you.

MALAYSIAN PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

DATUK LIM KOK BOON

President