# STUDY ON MECHANICAL AND DURABILITY PROPERTIES OF MIXTURES WITH FLY ASH FROM HONGSA POWER PLANT

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## Abstract

The use of fly ash in concrete improves several characteristics of conventional cement-based pastes, mortars, and concrete such as reduces heat of hydration, increases strength in long-term and enhances durability. However, types and volume of fly ash affect behavior of resulting pastes, mortars and concrete. In this study, the characteristics of pastes, mortars, and concrete with 20% and 30% binder replacement with a Hongsa fly ash from Laos (FAH3) and two fly ashes from Thailand (FAM and FAB) were studied. Further, mechanical and durability properties of Hongsa fly ash mortars and concrete are investigated through specific gravity, Blaine fineness, normal consistency, setting times, water requirement, strength index, slump and slump retention, compressive strength of concrete with a fixed slump, compressive strength of concrete with a fixed w/b of 0.5, semi-adiabatic temperature, total shrinkage, carbonation depth,  $H_2SO_4$  acid resistance, rapid chloride penetration (RCP) and chloride distribution. The experimental results show that the Hongsa fly ash contains large amount of non-spherical particles with coarse cavities, leading to high surface area and high Blaine fineness value. Accordingly, Hongsa fly ash was found to have high water requirement. In comparison to the ordinary Portland cement type I (OPC) and Mae Moh fly ash (FAM), the Hongsa fly ash was found to generate lower heat. As a result, the Hongsa fly ash shows its potential in the application of mass concrete. Similarly, the Hongsa fly ash mortar exhibited the lowest carbonation depth when compared to the FAM and FAB mortars. In term of RCPT and chloride distribution test, the Hongsa fly ash concrete shows the lowest Cl<sup>-</sup> penetrability when compared with Portland cement type I (OPC) concrete, FAM and FAB concretes. Based on the experimental results, the Hongsa fly ash was found to be applicable in concrete works.

Keywords: Compressive strength, Durability, Fly ash, Hongsa power plant

# Introduction

Hongsa power plant in Laos produces approximately 2 million tons of fly ash every year [1]. However, there is still no data of Hongsa fly ash's properties to make sure that the fly ash can be applied in concrete work. This research provides the first set of data for fly ash in Laos. Many previous researchers show that the use of fly ash in concrete provides several desirable characteristics such as improving concrete durability, reducing shrinkage, enhancing workability of the concrete [2]. Apart from the improvement of concrete characteristics, use of fly ash reduces the adverse impact on the environment due to reduction of cement consumption as well as disposal of the fly ash. Effective utilization of fly ash in concrete reduces the production of Portland cement, which emits a significant amount of carbon dioxide into the environment [3]. Properties of fly ash are governed by various

parameters such as type of coal, process of burning and collecting [4]. Therefore, properties of fly ashes even from the same power plant may vary. Depending on the types and characteristics of fly ashes, their effects on concrete are different. As a result, before using a fly ash in the concrete mix, an in-depth study of its characteristics is required.

In this paper, some basic properties of three fly ashes (two from Thailand and one from Laos), durability and other properties of mortars and concrete incorporating the fly ashes were studied. The studied basic properties include normal consistency, setting times, water requirement, strength index of mortars at 3, 7, 28 and 91 days. The other studied properties are slump and slump retention, compressive strength of concrete at 3, 7, 28 and 91 days, semi-adiabatic temperature as well as durability properties such as total shrinkage, carbonation depth,  $H_2SO_4$  acid resistance, rapid chloride penetration (RCP) and chloride distribution.

## **Experimental Program**

### **Material Properties**

An ordinary Portland cement type I (OPC), a Hongsa fly ash from Hongsa power plant in Laos (FAH3) and two Thai fly ashes from Mae Moh and BLCP power plants (FAM and FAB), respectively were used in the experiment. All the fly ash samples were collected from their respective power plant in March 2017. Their physical and chemical properties are shown in Table 1. Particle size distributions of the OPC, FAM, FAB, and FAH3 were obtained by using laser diffraction particle size analyzer "Malvern Mastersizer 2000" and are presented in Figure 1.

| Component                  | Cement | FAM   | FAH3  | FAB   |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| SiO <sub>2</sub> (%)       | 19.70  | 34.50 | 48.68 | 64.45 |
| $Al_2O_3(\%)$              | 5.19   | 17.91 | 30.44 | 20.58 |
| $Fe_2O_3(\%)$              | 3.34   | 13.73 | 5.97  | 3.76  |
| CaO (%)                    | 64.80  | 20.76 | 5.85  | 2.55  |
| MgO (%)                    | 1.20   | 3.00  | 2.59  | 0.97  |
| $SO_3(\%)$                 | 2.54   | 3.80  | 0.44  | 0.18  |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O (%)      | 0.16   | 1.78  | 0.43  | 0.43  |
| K <sub>2</sub> O (%)       | 0.44   | 2.13  | 3.44  | 1.51  |
| LOI (%)                    | 2.10   | 1.26  | 0.89  | 4.01  |
| Free lime (%)              | -      | 2.36  | 0.45  | 0.03  |
| Amorphous content (%)      | -      | 87.32 | 83.67 | 75.79 |
| Specific gravity           | 3.15   | 2.22  | 1.93  | 2.07  |
| Blaine fineness $(cm^2/g)$ | 3010   | 1922  | 2709  | 2212  |

Table 1. Chemical Compositions and Physical Properties of Cement and Fly Ashes

Table 1 shows chemical compositions and physical properties of all tested binders. Classification of the tested fly ashes as per TIS 2135 [5] and ASTM C618 [6] is presented in Table 2.

Limestone coarse aggregate and river sand fine aggregate were used as per the recommendations from ASTM C33 [7]. Limestone with a maximum size of 25 mm with continuous gradation and specific gravity of 2.75 was used as the coarse aggregate. Regarding the fine aggregate, river sand having F.M of 2.80 was used.



Figure 1. Particle size distribution of OPC, FAM, FAB and FAH3 determined by laser diffractometry

 Table 2. Fly Ash Classifications (Based on Chemical Composition)

| Fly Ash | Class based on Standard |   |  |
|---------|-------------------------|---|--|
|         | TIS 2135 ASTM C618      |   |  |
| FAM     | 2b                      | С |  |
| FAH3    | 2a                      | F |  |
| FAB     | 2a                      | F |  |

The SEM pictures of FAM, FAB and FAH3 are illustrated in Figures 2, 3 and 4. The SEM pictures show that FAH3 is almost non-spherical in shape with coarse cavities which make them porous and have high surface area and so high Blaine fineness. FAB also contains many non-spherical particles. On the other hand, FAM is spherical in shape.



Figure 2. SEM image of Mae Moh fly ash (FAM)



Figure 3. SEM image of BLCP fly ash (FAB)



Figure 4. SEM image of Hongsa fly ash (FAH3)

## **Experiments**

Some of the necessary basic properties of FAH3, FAB and FAM were tested. Normal consistency and setting times were determined according to ASTM C187 [8] and ASTM C191 [9], respectively. Water requirement and strength index were tested as per ASTM C311 [10]. The mix proportions were designed by replacing 20% by weight of total binder with each type of fly ash according to the ASTM standards [8, 9, 10]. Fly ash is normally used in concrete at the replacement ranges of 15% to 35% by weight of total cementitious materials. In this study, the fly ash replacement of 30% was used for testing mechanical and durability properties of mortars and concrete as the 30% replacement is normally specified as the

maximum limit of replacement in various standards such as ACI 211.1 and ACI 232.2R [11, 12]. The water to binder ratio (w/b) of 0.5 was used for all tested properties except for the  $H_2SO_4$  acid resistance. The lower w/b of 0.45 was used for testing the  $H_2SO_4$  acid resistance in order to accelerate the deterioration of the tested specimens in acid solution. It was reported in the literature that specimens with a relatively lower w/b ratio showed higher degradation with a sulfuric acid attack than those with a higher w/b ratio [13]. Mortars were prepared with a sand to binder ratio of 2.75 by weight. Details of mix proportions and sizes of the specimen of pastes, mortars and concrete are presented in Table 3.

| Test Items                                     | Туре     | Dimension of<br>Specimen             | Fly Ash<br>Replacement<br>Ratio | w/b  |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Normal consistency                             | Paste    | Ø6 top, Ø7 base $\times$ 4 cm        | 0.2                             | NM   |
| Setting times                                  | Paste    | Ø6 top, Ø7 base $\times$ 4 cm        | 0.2                             | NM   |
| Water requirement                              | Mortar   | _                                    | 0.2                             | WR   |
| Strength index                                 | Mortar   | $5 \times 5 \times 5$ cm             | 0.2                             | WR   |
| Compressive strength                           | Concrete | $10 \times 10 \times 10$ cm          | 0.3                             | WS   |
| Compressive strength                           | Concrete | $10 \times 10 \times 10$ cm          | 0.3                             | 0.5  |
| Slump & slump retention                        | Concrete | _                                    | 0.3                             | WS   |
| Semi-adiabatic temperature                     | Concrete | $40 \times 40 \times 40$ cm          | 0.3                             | 0.5  |
| Total shrinkage                                | Mortar   | $25 \times 25 \times 285 \text{ mm}$ | 0.3                             | 0.5  |
| Carbonation depth                              | Mortar   | $10 \times 10 \times 10$ cm          | 0.3                             | 0.5  |
| H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> acid resistance | Mortar   | $5 \times 5 \times 5$ cm             | 0.3                             | 0.45 |
| RCPT   | Concrete | $\emptyset 10 \times 20 \text{ cm}$  | 0.3                             | 0.5  |
| Chloride distribution                          | Concrete | $10 \times 10 \times 10$ cm          | 0.3                             | 0.5  |

#### **Table 3. Mix Proportions and Specimen Sizes**

Remark: NM = water to binder ratio that achieves normal consistency, WR = water to binder ratio that achieves a flow of 110±5%, WS = water to binder ratio that achieves a slump of 7 cm.

Slump and slump retention as well as compressive strength were measured in the laboratory according to ASTM C143 [14] and ASTM C39 [15], respectively. Semi-adiabatic temperature of fly ash concrete was tested following Viet et al. [16]. The cube plywood molds with a size of  $50 \times 50 \times 50$  cm containing insulation foam with a thickness of 5 cm at all sides were used to cast concrete specimens with a size of  $40 \times 40 \times 40$  cm. Thermocouples were installed at the center of the specimens and connected to a data logger to measure the temperature rise of the concrete specimen at every 15 min interval. Compressive strength of concrete having 30% fly ash replacement with a control initial slump of 7 cm and a fixed w/b of 0.5 was tested. The details of the mix proportions of the tested concrete samples are shown in Table 4.

Total shrinkage, RCP, chloride distribution tests were carried out according to ASTM C157 [17], ASTM C1202 [18] and ASTM C1152 [19], respectively. As suggested by Kaewmanee et al. [20], accelerated carbonation test was conducted to accelerate the rate of carbonation. In this test, three specimens per mixture were cast. Before exposure to the carbonation environment, the specimens were cured in water for 7 days. A CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 4% (40,000 ppm), a temperature of  $40\pm2^{\circ}$ C and a relative humidity of  $50\pm5\%$  were maintained in the carbonation chamber. The samples were measured the carbonation depth at 28 and 56 days after carbonation exposure by cutting the specimen into half and then sprayed 1% phenolphthalein solution on the cut surface. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> acid resistance by weight loss was tested following Sirisawat et al. [21]. The experiment was conducted by molding 3 mortar samples per mixture. The specimens were cured in water for

28 days. The initial weights of the specimens were measured at 28 days after taking out of water. After that the specimens were exposed to H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution (pH1). The weight losses of the surface dried specimens were examined every 7 days until 150 days.

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of hydrated cement pastes with a fly ash replacement of 30% was tested at the age of 7 days. The 10-20 mg of the powdered samples were tested by monitoring the weight while heating up from 30 to 950°C at 10°C/min, in the TGA/DSC 3+HT/1600 instrument. The amount of calcium hydroxide (CH) is expressed as a percentage of the dry sample weight at  $470^{\circ}$ C (W<sub>470</sub>) [22] as shown in Equation (1):

$$CH = \left(\frac{(W_{410} - W_{470})}{W_{470}} \times \frac{74}{18}\right) \times 100(\%)$$
(1)

| Where, | CH        | = Calcium hydroxide content (%).               |
|--------|-----------|--|
|        | $W_{410}$ | = Weight of dry sample at $410^{\circ}$ C (g). |
|        | W470      | = Weight of dry sample at $470^{\circ}$ C (g). |
|        | 74        | = Molar mass of $Ca(OH)_2$ .                   |
|        | 18        | = Molar mass of H <sub>2</sub> O.              |

| Table 4. Mix Proportions of the Tested Concr |
|--|
|--|

| Mix ID | Binder | · (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Fine                              | Coarse                            | Water      | _    | Slump |
|--------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------|-------|
|        | OPC    | Fly Ash                | Aggregate<br>(kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Aggregate<br>(kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | $(kg/m^3)$ | w/b  | (cm)  |
| OPC-S  | 363.39 | 0                      | 817.85                            | 1051.83                           | 167.94     | 0.5  | 7     |
| FAM-S  | 257.56 | 110.38                 | 817.85                            | 1051.83                           | 151.82     | 0.45 | 7     |
| FAH3-S | 224.73 | 96.31                  | 815.12                            | 1054.46                           | 159.71     | 0.54 | 7     |
| FAB-S  | 237.06 | 101.60                 | 815.12                            | 1051.30                           | 162.22     | 0.51 | 7     |
| OPC-W  | 363.39 | 0                      | 814.47                            | 1053.09                           | 170.05     | 0.5  | 10    |
| FAM-W  | 242.54 | 103.94                 | 814.47                            | 1054.64                           | 160.23     | 0.5  | 12    |
| FAH3-W | 234.89 | 100.67                 | 816.56                            | 1053.62                           | 153.52     | 0.5  | 4     |
| FAB-W  | 239.80 | 102.77                 | 814.47                            | 1052.88                           | 159.85     | 0.5  | 7.5   |

Remark: -S = control initial slump of 7 cm, -W = control water to binder ratio at 0.5, w/b = 0.5water to binder ratio.

## **Results and Discussions**

#### **Basic Properties**

The results of normal consistency, setting times, water requirement and strength index of the tested mixtures made with fly ashes are shown in Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

It was found that FAM showed the lowest normal consistency and water requirement (see Figure 5 and Figure 7, respectively) due to its spherical and non-porous particle characteristics [23]. On the other hand, among all tested fly ashes, FAH3 exhibited the highest water requirement and normal consistency due to its porous and non-spherical nature together with largest particle size [24].

The initial and final setting times of all types of fly ash mixtures were longer than those of the reference cement mixture. Setting times depend partly on CaO content of the fly ash. In general, a fly ash that has low CaO content prolongs setting times of the mixture when compared to a high CaO fly ash [20]. So, FAM which is a high CaO fly ash sets faster than the rest of the fly ashes, which contain lower CaO contents. Furthermore, FAH3 has the highest normal consistency so the setting times of FAH3 is the longest [24] (see Figure 6).



Figure 6. Setting times of the tested pastes



Figure 7. Water requirement of the tested mortars



Figure 8. Strength index of the tested mortars

The strength index results show that fly ash mixture with FAH3 has the highest strength index, probably due to the highest surface area and high amorphous content (see Table 1), followed by FAM and FAB. The FAM mixture has higher strength than the FAB mixture especially at the early ages, mainly due to higher CaO and amorphous contents [25] (see Figure 8 and Table 1).

### **Concrete Properties**

The results of semi-adiabatic temperature, slump and slump retention, compressive strength at a fixed slump of 7 cm as well as compressive strength of mixtures with a fly ash replacement percentage of 30% and w/b of 0.5 are illustrated in Figures 9, 10, 11 and 12, respectively.

The semi-adiabatic temperature results are shown in Figure 9. The values of semiadiabatic temperature of the specimens were in the order of OPC, FAM, FAH3 and FAB (from maximum to minimum). In regard to chemical composition, heat generation in the concrete mainly depends on the amount of CaO. Peak temperature, CaO content, Blaine fineness of the OPC and fly ashes are presented in Table 5, which shows that high CaO fly ash leads to high peak temperature [26].



Figure 9. Semi-adiabatic temperature of the tested concrete mixtures

| Samples | Peak Temp. (°C) | CaO (%) | Blaine Fineness (cm <sup>2</sup> /g) |
|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| OPC     | 66.46           | 64.80   | 3010                                 |
| FAM     | 57.30           | 20.76   | 1922                                 |
| FAH3    | 56.72           | 5.85    | 2709                                 |
| FAB     | 54.59           | 2.55    | 2212                                 |

Among the studied fly ash and OPC concrete mixtures with a control slump, Figure 10 demonstrates that the workability of FAH3 is excellent. Its slump can be retained beyond 1 cm until 150 min. This behavior of FAH3 is consistent with the longest setting times when compared with FAM and FAB fly ashes (see Figure 6). FAM that has spherical shape also performs well for workability.

Figure 11 presents the compressive strength of the tested specimens. All of the tested specimens had the same mix proportion as those tested for slump and slump retention (see Table 4). All tested mixtures were prepared to have an equivalent initial slump of 7 cm. Among all fly ash mixtures, the compressive strength of FAH3 was found to be equivalent or just slightly higher than that of FAM. The compressive strength of FAH3 is slightly higher than that of the FAM though the w/b of the FAH3 mixture is higher. This is probably due to the higher specific surface area of the FAH3 fly ash, which can accelerate the reaction of the FAH3 fly ash when compared with the FAM fly ash. Further, it is worth noting that the trend of compressive strength of concrete is similar to strength index of mortars.



Figure 10. Slump and slump retention of mixtures with a control slump of 7 cm



Figure 11. Compressive strength of concrete with a fixed slump of 7 cm



Figure 12. Compressive strength of concrete mixtures with a fly ash ratio of 30% and a fixed w/b of 0.5

Figure 12 shows the compressive strength of concrete with 30% fly ash replacement with a fixed water to binder of 0.5. The tested mixtures have the same mix proportions as those tested for semi-adiabatic temperature (see Table 4). All the mixtures have the same water to binder ratio of 0.5. The FAH3 mixture shows the highest compressive strength due to the high specific surface area (Blaine fineness) and high amorphous content of the FAH3 fly ash.

#### **Durability Properties**

All the fly ash mixtures show lower total shrinkage than the OPC mixture (see Figure 13). The mixtures that show from minimum to maximum shrinkage are FAM, FAH3, FAB and OPC. However, the mixtures of FAH3, FAB and OPC present not much difference in total shrinkage. The FAM mixture demonstrates slightly lower shrinkage than the other mixtures due to the higher contents of CaO and SO<sub>3</sub> in FAM which can induce expansion from ettringite formation, so compensate the total shrinkage. According to a previous study of Chatchawan [27], measuring ettringite and portlandite contents of pastes containing high and low CaO fly ash at the age of 7 days, the high CaO fly ash paste produced higher amount of ettringite and portlandite than the low CaO fly ash paste (see Table 6). For clearly seeing the effect of induced expansion of high CaO fly ash mixture by ettringite formation and portlandite, the result of expansion at the end of water curing (7 days) of all tested fly ash mixtures is plotted in Figure 14. It can be seen from Figure 14 that the FAM mixture shows the largest expansion at the end of water curing when compared to all other fly ash mixtures. Moreover, FAH3 mixture shows slightly lower shrinkage than the FAB mixture, which is mainly due to the higher amorphous content of the FAH3. The higher amorphous content generates smaller pores leading to lower drying shrinkage [25, 28].



Figure 13. Total shrinkage of the tested mortars

|--|

| Hydration Products (%) | High CaO | Low CaO |
|------------------------|----------|---------|
| Ettringite Content     | 1.656    | 0.000   |
| Portlandite            | 10.140   | 9.084   |

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Figure 14. Expansion at 7 days in water curing and the total shrinkage at 98 days of the tested mortars

Carbonation test results are presented in Figure 15. Figure 15 shows that OPC mixture is the best with respect to carbonation resistance when compared to fly ash mixtures. Among the fly ash mixes, FAH3 had the smallest carbonation depth followed by FAM, and FAB. As per Khunthongkeaw et al. [29], the high CaO fly ash is better than low CaO fly ash in term of carbonation resistance, especially in high CO<sub>2</sub> environment. The high CaO fly ash produced higher amount of calcium hydroxide (CH) and lower total permeable void (at 28 days) than low CaO fly ash mixture. According to the results of thermogravimetric analysis (see Table 7), the FAM mixture has higher amount of CH (at 7 days) than FAB and FAH3 mixtures. Therefore, FAM (high CaO fly ash) mixture exhibited lower carbonation depth than the FAB (low CaO fly ash) (see Figure 15). However, FAH3 which is a low CaO fly ash has the lowest carbonation depth among all the studied fly ash mixtures. This is mainly due to a low porosity of the FAH3 mixture. The total porosity test results tested according to ASTM C642 [30] are shown in Table 7. The results show that the FAH3 mixture possesses the minimum total porosity (7 days water cured) followed by OPC, FAB and FAM mixtures.



Figure 15: Carbonation depth of the tested mortars

Table 7. Porosity and Calcium Hydroxide (CH) Content at 7 days of the Tested Mortars

| Sample | <b>Total Porosity (%)</b> | CH (%) |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| OPC    | 16.02                     | 21.14  |
| FAM    | 17.44                     | 16.41  |
| FAH3   | 15.88                     | 14.34  |
| FAB    | 16.41                     | 14.72  |

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The  $H_2SO_4$  acid resistance results in Figure 16 show that the OPC mixture has the highest mass loss in  $H_2SO_4$  solution, followed by FAM, FAH3 and FAB mixtures. The calcium to silica ratios (CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub>) of the mixtures were calculated and their values are shown in Table 8. The CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> ratio was calculated from chemical composition of all binders in the tested mixtures as shown in the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{CaO}}{\text{SiO}_2} = \frac{(\text{CaO}_c \times W_c) + (\text{CaO}_f \times W_f)}{(\text{SiO}_{2c} \times W_c) + (\text{SiO}_{2f} \times W_f)}$$
(2)

Where,  $CaO_c = CaO$  content in the cement (%)  $CaO_f = CaO$  content in the fly ash (%)  $SiO_{2c} = SiO_2$  content in the cement (%)  $SiO_{2f} = SiO_2$  content in the fly ash (%)  $W_c = Unit$  weight of cement in the mixture (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  $W_f = Unit$  weight of fly ash in the mixture (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

It can be seen that the mass losses of mortar samples (See Figure 16) have good correlation with CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> ratios of the mixtures (see Table 8). The mixtures that have higher CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> ratios tend to lose weight in  $H_2SO_4$  acid easier than those with low CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> ratios. This is because compounds with high SiO<sub>2</sub> content are more resistant to sulfuric acid than those with high CaO content [31].



Figure 16. Mass losses in H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> acid of the tested mixtures

| Samples | CaO (%) | <b>SiO</b> <sub>2</sub> (%) | CaO/SiO <sub>2</sub> |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| OPC     | 64.80   | 19.7                        | 3.29                 |
| FAM     | 20.76   | 34.5                        | 2.14                 |
| FAB     | 2.55    | 64.45                       | 1.39                 |
| FAH3    | 5.85    | 48.68                       | 1.66                 |

Table 8. Relation of CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> Ratio

The RCP and chloride distribution results in Figures 17 and 18 show the same tendency that the mixture with the highest chloride penetration resistance is FAH3, which is followed by FAB, FAM and OPC. From the results, it can be seen that all fly ash mixtures are better than the OPC mixture. The chloride penetration results of fly ash mixtures get along well with the total porosity test results in Table 7, showing that lower porosity leads to better chloride resistance. The results also correspond with the study of Rerkhora et al. [32] which shows that low CaO fly ash has better chloride resistance than high CaO fly ash. From the experimental results, FAH3 is categorized in low and very low chloride penetrability according to ASTM C1202 [18] (see Table 9).

| Charge Passed (Coulombs) | Chloride Ion Penetrability |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| >4,000                   | High                       |
| 2,000-4,000              | Moderate                   |
| 1,000-2,000              | Low                        |
| 100-1,000                | Very low                   |
| <100                     | Negligible                 |

Table 9. Chloride Ion Penetrability Based on Charge Passed (ASTM C1202) [18]



Figure 17. RCPT results of the tested concrete mixtures



Figure 18. Chloride distribution of the tested concrete samples after exposure to a 5% chloride solution at 28 days

# Conclusions

A series of experiments were carried out to investigate various characteristics of three fly ashes and their effects on concrete. Based on the test results, the following conclusions are drawn:

- Hongsa fly ash (FAH3) contains lower LOI than FAB and FAM. On the other hand, amounts of SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and amorphous content are found to be relatively high.
- Majority of FAH3 particles are non-spherical in shape with coarse cavities, making them porous and have high Blaine fineness, even though it has large particle size.
- Normal consistency and water requirement of FAH3 are observed to be higher than OPC, FAM and FAB, which is due mainly to its porous properties and nonspherical particles.
- FAH3 shows the longest setting time, maximum slump retention and highest chloride resistance, when compared to OPC, FAB and FAM.
- All fly ash mixtures exhibit lower total shrinkage when compared to OPC mixture. Further, the highest compressive strength and carbonation resistance is observed in FAH3 mixture when compared with FAM and FAB mixtures.
- The low semi-adiabatic temperature of mixture with FAH3 demonstrates its potential for being used in mass concrete.
- The H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> acid resistance of all fly ash mixtures is better than that of OPC mixture due to lower CaO/SiO<sub>2</sub> ratios of the fly ash mixtures.

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