Discontinuity Analysis in Rock Slope Stability

IBRAHIM KOMOO, Jabatan Geologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

It has been shown that there is a direct strength reduction effect due to the presence of discontinuities within the rock mass. Among other things, this strength reduction is due to the decrease of cohesion and friction of the rock, an increase in porewater pressure and a softening of the discontinuity surfaces. The discontinuity will also serve as a potential failure zone, in which along this zone, the slope is most likely to fail.

In order to assess rock slope stability, it is necessary to measure, record and hopefully classify the orientations, length, spacings and any other discontinuity characteristics in an organized manner.

This paper will highlight the discontinuity survey technique conducted along the Kuala Lumpur - Karak Highway and some of its uses in rock slope stability analysis.

*****

Warta Geologi (Newsletter of the Geological Society of Malaysia), Vol. 7, No. 1, January-February 1981