Cenozoic Stratigraphy of Peninsular Malaysia

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The Cenozoic underlies slightly more than 20 percent of the land area of Peninsular Malaysia of which the majority of the sediments are Quaternary age (Figure 1). The Cenozoic in Peninsular Malaysia has been relatively stable tectonically with activity confined to epeirogenic uplift and tilting, some fault movements and localised gentle downwarps.

The known Cenozoic deposits vary in thickness but an average thickness of 10,000 m has been noted for sediments in the Malay Basin (DuBois, 1980). The offshore deposits are also included for discussion and correlation in view of their economic importance. Figure 2 gives the Cenozoic correlation chart for Peninsular Malaysia.

The Tertiary rocks are distributed either as isolated lacustrine basins between the Main Range and the west coast or underlie the Quaternary deposits in the lowlying coastal and offshore areas. Localised granitic and basaltic rocks of Tertiary age have also been mapped. The Quaternary deposits however consist mainly of unconsolidated to semi-consolidated gravel, sand, clay and silt occupy the coastal terrains and floors of some of the inland valleys. Besides these sediments there are basaltic lava flows, ash deposits, laterite and bauxite of Quaternary age.

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