

PERTEMUAN PERSATUAN **Meetings of the Society**

Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talk)

Quarrying of dimension stones in Malaysia

KHOR PENG SEONG

Laporan (Report)

It was timely when Mr. Khor Peng Seong offered to present his talk on "Quarrying of dimension stones in Malaysia" on the 4th December 1996 at the Geology Department, University of Malaya. Being Head of Mining and Quarrying Technology Unit, Division of Research and Training Department of Mines, Malaysia, Mr. Khor is the best person to talk on the dimension stone industry in the country.

As the industry is very much in its infancy compared to some of our neighbouring countries, Mr. Khor touched on the some of the difficulties of quarrying dimension stones in Malaysia and to be successful one has to have a good knowledge of rock characteristics and structures, quarrying skills and marketability of the products. The talk was well illustrated with beautiful slides on some of the quarrying methods for marble and granite presently been used by various dimension stone quarries in the country.

The audience of 50 certainly benefited immensely from the talk and undoubtedly have a better idea of the dimension stone industry in Malaysia.

Abstrak (Abstract)

The production of dimension stones looks like a simple and sure way to produce value added products from our rock resources but its apparent simplicity can be deceiving. Successful exploitation of a dimension stone resource is very difficult and requires good knowledge of rock quality, characteristic and structure, skills of quarrying and knowledge of marketability of products. There are quarries in Malaysia which have put out big investments to start producing dimension stones but found out later that none of the blocks can be used because of micro cracks or veins in the block. The difficulties of quarrying dimension stones compared to quarrying of aggregates, is that you need to know the rock to be quarried right up to the minute details. For aggregate quarrying it is usually sufficient to know the quality of rock at the bench you are going to blast, say to the nearest 10 m, but for dimension stone quarrying you need to know the quality and structure of the rock to be cut, to the nearest 1 cm. The quarrying methods for marble and granite are different and the talk will survey the methods used at present in Malaysia.

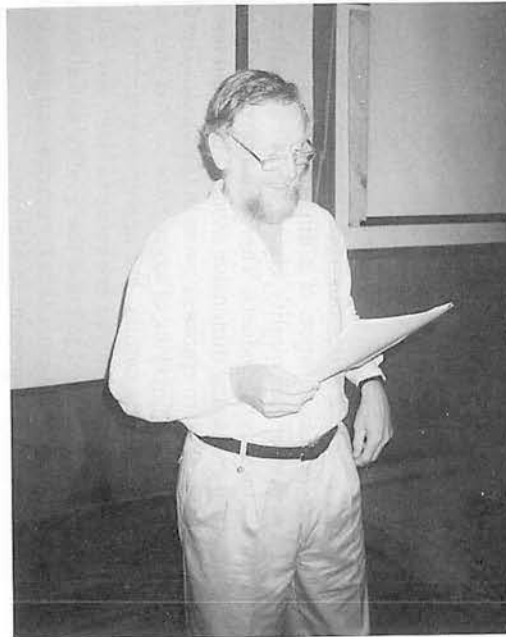
G.H. Teh



Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talks)



KHOR PENG SEONG



B.J. HENSEN

