

## **Tourism Geoscience: A New Subdiscipline in Geoscience Education**

**M.D. KADDERI**

School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Tourism Geoscience is a new subdiscipline of geoscience education. It is also a paradigm for understanding the earth environment for long-term nondestructive utilisation of its heritage. The subdiscipline focuses on geoscientific assets management, land use planning and development of the human habitat. These are the main components of its elaboration. The other major thrust of Tourism Geoscience is resource evaluation. It converges on the interrelationships between geoscape foundation, biotic system and human culture. We can visualise the premise as anthro-bio-geo-ecosystem. This leads us to appreciate ideas such as (1) Intrinsic value, (2) Non-destructive Resource Utilisation, (3) Dynamic Equilibrium and Continuum of Ecosystem, (4) Human Habitat Planning and Earth Environmental Foundation Management, and (5) Touristic Development Abstraction as the Precursor of Tourism Development. The Tourism Geoscience subdiscipline can now be described as a fusion process for achieving sustainability. It involves evaluating, planning and managing geoscape resources. The main goal is towards sustainable development of a human industry. The career of a tourism geoscientist would span the entire life span of geoscape utilisation. It covers a wider range of responsibilities from exploring, discovering, planning and managing. This is in response to new emerging industrial trends, rising standard of living and greater leveraging of knowledge. It is imperative that initiatives for a broader approach to geoscience training are explored. As the science for understanding the earth, geoscience can become a popular science. Only then can the prospect for statutory recognition and a greater role of geoscientist in society can be realised. At the School of Environmental and Natural Resources Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Tourism Geoscience has now been offered as an option. All students of the school can register for a package or a module in Geology and Environmental Science programmes, respectively.

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