

PERTEMUAN PERSATUAN (Meeting of the Society)

Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talk)

THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGY IN MALAYSIA

10 January 2007

Geology Department

University of Malaya

(in collaboration with the Dept of Geology, University of Malaya)

Report

MR TAN BOON KONG

Having initiated the Chairman's Lecture series by Chairman of the various GSM Working groups it is not surprising that Tan Boon Kong, who is the Chairman GSM Working Group on Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology, took the cue again in 2007 to refresh the series by giving his talk entitled "The Practice of Engineering Geology in Malaysia".

Boon Kong started his lecture by quoting a few references with regard to the practice of Engineering Geology. These include "...on the role of the Engineering Geologist during construction to forewarn of any ominous geological features....." (Rawlings, 1972), "...Because nature is infinitely variable, the geological aspects of our profession assure us that there will never be two jobs exactly alike....." (Peck, 1973), ".....The subject of my lecture this evening reflects my experience over the past 30 years that engineers and geologists have not yet learned to communicate efficiently with each other....." (Henkel, 1982, 22nd Rankine Lecture), and ".....Geology should not be overlooked in site investigations....." (Chan, 1996).

Next Boon Kong went on to present case studies of rock slope stability, foundation in limestone bedrock, limestone cliff stability, tunnels, riverbank instability, slope failure due to rapid drawdown and urban geology and hillside development.

During question time, Boon Kong took the opportunity to advise the audience, which included many student members, the limits of involvement of a geologist in engineering projects and aspects meant for the engineer should be left to the expertise of the engineer.

Prof Dr Teh Guan Hoe

Biography

Mr. Tan was formerly an Associate Professor in Engineering Geology at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, where he has served for the past 33 years. He retired recently from the university. In addition to teaching and research in the university, Mr. Tan was also engaged occasionally on an ad-hoc or project basis in consulting practices in Engineering Geology with the private sectors, mostly with the Geotechnical and Civil Engineering consulting companies or contractors.

Mr. Tan has also been actively involved in professional bodies such as the Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM), the Institute of Geology Malaysia (IGM) and the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) as a member of the Council (GSM, IGM) or Technical Divisions (IEM).

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Tan BK delivering his talk



Tea time for the audience



Prof Dr Teh GH introducing Tan BK



Tan BK together with Prof Dr Teh GH



Part of the audience at the talk



Old friends - Prof Dr Teh GH presenting a token of appreciation to Tan BK