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## Disaster Risk Reduction – The Emerging Market for Geoscience Entrepreneurs?

Date: 24 April 2015

Venue: Geology Department, University of Malaya

The discourse held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Department of Geology, University of Malaya before GSM's 49<sup>th</sup> AGM, is supported by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund to lay the foundation for future activities under the aegis of the GSM-IGM Flagship on Geoscience to Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (G2A4DRR). The event was well attended by academician and practising geologists. The welcoming remark was delivered by Dr. Ng Tham Fatt on behalf of the Prof. Dr. Ismail Yusoff, Head, Department of Geology, UM. An informative overview of the Science to Action (S2A) initiative was presented by Dr. Kavintheran Thambiratnam, S2A Program Director and it was followed by a talk on the status of disaster risk reduction in Malaysia by Prof. Dr. Joy J. Pereira, Principal Research Fellow of SEADPRI-UKM.

In the discussion session, the focus was on strengthening capacity to address risks of cascading climate related hazards and supporting multi-hazard assessments. Issues discussed including:

- What are the issues that should be given priority to enhance informed policy and decision making and how can geoscience support this process?
- Where are the hazardous and exposed areas? How can geoscience contribute to reduce exposure?
- Where are the vulnerable communities? How can geoscience contribute to build community resilience?
- What are the exposed economic sectors and supply chains? How can geoscience contribute to support business continuity during disasters?
- How are questions such as “why is the climate changing” and “how much will sea-level rise” relevant to local level decision making?
- What is the present capacity among geoscientist for understanding current risks and incorporating disaster risk reduction in conventional plans that typically have a time horizon of 15-30 years?
- What is the present capacity among geoscientist for understanding long term risks and changes in the range of 50-100 years to support climate change adaptation?
- What mechanisms can be instituted to channel geoscience innovation to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the local level?
- What are the current initiatives that could be scaled up to promote public private partnerships via multi- disciplinary and multi-sector consortiums under the G2A4DRR?

The closing remarks were delivered by Dato' Yunus Abdul Razak, President of IGM and Dr. Mazlan Madon, President of GSM.

