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SEATAR Transect Project

The main objectives of the SEATAR program originally were defined as: (1) to determine the location characteristics and significance of the principal tectonic features of the continental margins and associated structural elements of east and southeast Asia; (2) to relate metalliferous ore deposits to the major tectonic features and plate boundaries, particularly convergent and shear boundaries; and (3) to analyze the characteristics of various types of sedimentary basins and their hydrocarbon habitat in terms of their position relative to plate margins, and to study the geologic, geochemical, and geothermal history factors governing the transformation of organic matter into hydrocarbons in small basins.

The investigation was concentrated along several so-called transects, sections of the earth's crust where the processes operating in the earth's interior manifest themselves in several geologic and geophysical features. Six transects were originally defined in the region of east and southeast Asia, followed by other transects crossing the western and eastern parts of Indonesia.

These transect study projects covered the major areas of plate interaction, each cutting across an arc-trench system and adjacent basins and continental areas. The results from individual studies could be coordinated to give a comprehensive multidisciplinary picture of this critical part of the earth's crust.

At a special meeting held in Bangkok in 1985, the coordinators agreed to present the final maps and sections of the transects at the Circum-Pacific Conference, and the final report may be published in 1987.

Each transect will consist of a separate volume that includes a folio and maps and sections in standard format and printed in color. Furthermore, the separate volumes in the series will be published by the same publisher and released at the same time. If this schedule is to be met, then funding must be requested, in-kind inputs must be provided, and an overall coordinator must be employed.