Economic Geology Seminar 1980 - Industrial Minerals

Abstracts of Papers

Present Exploitation and Future Prospects of Industrial Minerals in Peninsular Malaysia

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Peninsular Malaysia is rich in certain industrial minerals. Out of more than 30 types of industrial minerals present, minerals which are being exploited on various scales of magnitude include barite, bauxite, clays, corundum, dolomite, ilmenite, limestone, quartz, crushed stone, sand/gravel, silica sand, xenotime and zircon. Some of these are exported, but the bulk is used locally in the construction industry and in various other industries.

Prospects for increased exploitation of industrial minerals are good. More of the resources are now known. Both quantitatively and qualitatively, resources are available in certain industrial minerals to meet the demand for the local and export markets in the 1980s.

Industrial minerals which have abundant reserves/resources are aggregates, common clay, dolomite, limestone (marble), kaolin, quartz and silica sand. Barite, ball clay and refractory clay have potential for increased exploitation. Industrial minerals with potential for future development include andalusite, chert and feldspar.

Industrial minerals are available as raw materials for the following industries: abrasives, ceramics, cements, chemicals, glass, fillers (for paper, plastics, paint and rubber), refractories and mineral pigments.

Industrial minerals such as barite, ball-clay, cements, calcium carbonate, kaolin, dolomite and silica sand are also in demand in the export market.

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