

## BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS OF THE GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION PROGRAMME CENTRAL BELT PROJECT

FATEH CHAND, Geological Survey of Malaysia, P.O. Box 1015, Ipoh, Perak.

The Central Belt Project area is situated in north-central Peninsular Malaysia covering some 31,000 square kilometres.

The aim of the project is to access the mineral potential of this region, particularly for base metals, precious metals, uranium and iron, with the hope of diversifying the country's largely tin-dependent mining industry.

The project which was initiated with grant and technical aid from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), now forms an important aspect of the department's mineral exploration programme.

Canadian participation in the geochemical surveys was phased out by 1979. The surveys at the reconnaissance and detailed levels, are now being continued by the Geological Survey Staff. In addition the department launched an airborne magnetometric and spectrometric survey covering the Central Belt area.

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