

Geological Society of Malaysia -- Annual Geological Conference 1988

THE TRIASSIC SYSTEM OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

WONG TING WOON
Geological Survey of Malaysia, Ipoh.

Triassic represents an important phase in the geologic evolution of Peninsular Malaysia. It is more or less the end phase of the long period of marine sedimentation commencing as early as the Cambrian time. The pre-Triassic sedimentary rocks are essentially marine and post-Triassic rocks characteristically non-marine.

The well represented Triassic sequences are exposed in two major areas in Peninsular Malaysia, one at the northwestern corner and the other from north to south along the axial region.

At the northwestern Peninsula, the lithostratigraphic units are the Kodiang Limestone and the Semanggol Formation. Kodiang Limestone is essentially a shelf carbonate. Further east, the shelf carbonate facies is replaced by flysch-type deposit of the Semanggol Formation. There is little evidence of a transition between the Kodiang Limestone and the contemporary Semanggol Formation. Along the Central Belt area, different lithostratigraphic names were given to different parts of the same continuous unit as a result of isolated works by geologists in different areas. At the northern portion, Gua Musang Formation, Kerdau Formation, Gunung Rabong Formation, Jelai Formation, Telong Formation and Aring Formation can be well represented by Gua Musang Aring Formation and Gunung Rabong Formation. At the central portion Kerdau Formation, Lipis Group, Semantan Formation, Raub Group, Kaling Formation, Jelai Formation can be reduced essentially to Semantan Formation and Kaling Formation. In the south, most new workers prefer to use Gemas Formation in place of the Tenang beds, Gemas beds, Jurong Formation and Jelai Formation for the different parts of the same unit.

Lower Triassic, more or less represents a period of non-deposition or possibly an orogenic phase throughout the country except in the northern Peninsula where deposition of Gua Musang Formation and Kodiang Limestone went on continuously from the Middle Permian, suggesting tectonic stability in this part of the country during Lower Triassic time. Elsewhere, cleaved Palaeozoic rocks are overlain by relatively unclesed rocks of Middle to Late Triassic age. Eruptive submarine volcanism is common throughout the Triassic time. Several granites intruding Triassic sediments have yield radiometric dates that indicate Late Triassic and Cretaceous ages of intrusions. Coarser clastic sediments especially the occurrence of intraformational conglomerate in the upper portions of the Triassic sequences indicates instability culminating in a major orogenic event which terminates the marine sedimentation at the end of Triassic.