

Exploration geochemistry in SE Asia: soils, sediments and potential for anthropogenic effects

K. FLETCHER

Laporan (Report)

Professor W.K. Fletcher from the Department of Geological Sciences, University of British Columbia, Canada presented the above talk on the 11th of May 1995 at the Geology Department, University of Malaya. This interesting and informative talk attracted an audience of more than 50.

The audience were given an overview of various aspects related to geochemical exploration for gold and base metals in Southeast Asia. Professor Fletcher began his talk by emphasising that inasmuch as the climatic condition of tropical regions are similar, the Southeast Asian region however has relatively higher suspended sediment yields compared to the tropical regions in Africa and South America. Coupled with anthropogenic effects, this has given rise to several features unique to stream sediments and soils in Southeast Asia which have important implications for the design and interpretation of geochemical surveys. Professor Fletcher also highlighted the difficulties associated with conventional stream sediment sampling to reliably detect gold anomalies due to anthropogenic inputs from deforestation and agricultural activities. This was illustrated in the study of stream sediments from Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

F.T. Ng