

PERTEMUAN PERSATUAN Meetings of the Society

Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talk)

The role of the geological surveys in the 21st Century

PETER J. COOK

Laporan (Report)

Dr. Peter J. Cook, Director, British Geological Survey, United Kingdom presented a very interesting talk to our members in the Ipoh region on 8th July 1997 at 9.00 am. The technical talk was jointly organised with the Geological Survey Department Malaysia, Ipoh office and the Geological Society of Malaysia. The talk was arranged through the GSM's Ipoh representative, Mr. P. Loganathan who is also the GSD's director in Ipoh and was held at the GSD's conference room.

The first part of his talk concentrated on the past and future roles of the geological surveys of the world leading up to the 21st century and their changes through time. After tea break, Dr. Cook talked particularly on the British Geological Survey and its changes in programme emphasis from its inception up to the present and a peek at BGR's future role.

Dr. Cook's talk attracted some 50 persons from the private sector and other government departments as well as the GSD's senior staff to hear his talk. All in all, it was a very successful event and the first to be held this year in Ipoh from the newly-elected Council of the Society. From the feedback of those present, there will surely be many more such talks to be held in Ipoh.

Abstrak (Abstract)

Geological surveys were first established to undertake mapping relating to the practical aspects of geology such as mining, construction and transport. Mapping has continued to be the predominant activity of surveys although some have placed increased emphasis on the more basic aspects of geology. Many surveys have had to become more market oriented, partly as a response to decreased levels of government expenditure. Technological advances will affect the way in which surveys undertake their investigations. The future agenda of national geological surveys will be influenced by broad socio-economic trends. The priorities of geological surveys in the 21st century will depend on the extent to which major national concerns lie in resource exploitation, industrial development, high population growth or combinations of these. All geological surveys must maintain mapping expertise and retain national geoscience databases: they must be customer responsive, undertake multidisciplinary work, maintain excellence and impartiality, become more visible and remain in the public sector. This strategy will not guarantee the future of geological surveys but it will help.

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GSM

