

Preserving our key geological exposures — exploring the realm of geotourism

PHILIP LESSLAR & CHARLIE LEE

Sarawak Shell Berhad/Sabah Shell Petroleum Co. Ltd.
Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

Miri town is the locality of Malaysia's first commercial oilfield, discovered in 1910. It is also a locality rich in geological exposures that exhibit a wide range of features. This poster session summarises efforts to date made by a group of volunteers to preserve a selected number of these exposures as permanent geological exhibits that also support educational and eco-/geo-tourism efforts.

The Airport Road outcrop in Miri, located about two kilometers from the town center along the way to Miri Airport, is one of the most outstanding geological exposures in the region. In particular, it has been hailed by some as one of the best outcrops in the world for the observation of faults in three dimensions. Many geological field trips to the site have been made by the various petroleum companies operating in the area. In addition, the site has attracted scholars from Universities in the region and from Europe. Its location on one of the highest points in Miri town also offers visitors a panoramic view of Miri and its surroundings.

In pursuing logistics aspects, linkage to development aspirations of the community and the Government has been a key area of focus as is maintenance of the exhibit over time. Early efforts have therefore been made to present results of the effort to local dignitaries and the Miri Council and to secure support which has proven to be extremely positive.

This poster session depicts the progress and experiences to date, outlines future plans and looks at a range of synergy areas e.g. tourism industry, education, geological survey, local university.