

## A Snapshot on the Economic Value of Geoscience in Malaysia

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Economic value of geoscience in Malaysia has not been studied yet. The only information available on the geoscience economic value is perhaps through the economic data statistics produced by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia. However, the statistics only covered the upstream activities of mineral production (mining) which also (fortunately) include the production of petroleum and natural gas. The gross output by these activities, grouped under the mining sector, in 2015 was RM120.41 billion (DOS, 2016). The downstream side of the mineral sector which comprises the mineral-based industries such as iron and steel industry, non-metallic mineral-based industry as well as the petroleum-based industries are grouped under the manufacturing sector thus their economic value is considered as manufacturing. Apart from the upstream and downstream activities, there are numerous geoscience-related activities not exposed

by the economic statistics which prompted Lewis (2009) to consider geoscience as a deeply embedded and hidden economy activity. Ge activity to the Malaysian economy. This paper is looking into the economic value of geoscience activity in Malaysia which include other activities apart from mineral production. These activities together with mineral production will be referred here as the geoscience core-activity which include mineral and petroleum exploration, laboratories, consultancy companies, individual consultants, drilling, engineering and geotech companies, minerals and geoscience department and geoscience teaching and research. It will provide a snapshot on the economic value of geoscience in Malaysia. A more comprehensive study is proposed which should include the non-core activity such as landscaping, geotourism etc.