

Historical perspective of the Geological Society of Malaysia

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Abstract: The Society was formally established on 31/01/1967 with its' first decade (31/03/1967-25/03/1977) marked by the Annual General Meeting, often with a Presidential Address and Discussion Meeting, as the premier annual event. During the first decade, a Newsletter was issued every two months and seven Bulletins as well as the book on "Geology of the Malay Peninsula" were published. The second decade (26/03/1977-28/04/1986) saw introduction of the Petroleum Geology Seminar (on 16/12/1977) which together with the Annual General Meeting and two-day Discussion Meeting then became the premier annual events. The Newsletter of the Geological Society of Malaysia (renamed Warta Geologi in January 1975) was issued every two to three months and ten Bulletins of the Geological Society of Malaysia were published. The third decade (28/04/1986-22/04/1995) saw the introduction of a two day Annual Geological Conference (on 28-29/04/1986) which together with the Annual General Meeting and the Petroleum Conference became the premier annual events. During this third decade, the Warta Geologi was issued every two to three months and nineteen Bulletins were published. Five Working Groups were appointed in March 1987, whilst the Institute of Geology Malaysia was established on 11/03/1989. The fourth decade (22/04/1995-29/04/2006) saw rebranding of the Petroleum Seminar as the Petroleum Geology Conference in 1995, and later renamed the Petroleum Geology Conference & Exhibition in 2002. This event, together with the Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting then became the premier annual events. During the fourth decade, the Warta Geologi was issued every two to four months and twelve Bulletins were published. An additional five Working Groups were appointed during the fourth decade which also saw formal representations being made for gazetting the Professional Geologist's Act. The fifth decade (29/04/2006 - present) saw rebranding of the Annual Geological Conference as the National Geoscience Conference (12-13/06/2006) which together with the Annual General Meeting and the Petroleum Geology Conference & Exhibition (renamed Petroleum Geoscience Conference & Exhibition in 2011) then became the premier annual events. In 2009, the Society published the book on "Geology of Peninsular Malaysia", and in 2014, uploaded all publications onto its website (www.gsm.org.my). On 15/07/2008, the Geologists Act 2008 (Act 689) was passed by the Malaysian Parliament, whilst in 2011, the Society Bulletin was recognized as a Scopus indexed publication. With its main annual events, i.e. National Geoscience Conference and General Meeting, as well as regularly organized technical talks, fieldtrips, Forums, Seminars and Conferences, sound financial position, and timely publication of the Warta Geologi and the Bulletin, the Society can look forward to continue being one of the more successful geological societies in SE Asia.

Keywords: Geological Society of Malaysia, history, National Geoscience Conference, Warta Geologi

INTRODUCTION

In the early 1960's, informal discussions amongst geologists pointed to the increasing need for a Society where geologists from the then three major institutions, i.e. the Geological Survey, the University of Malaya and the mining industry, could meet and exchange ideas, and which would provide a means for publishing findings. All known geologists in Malaysia were invited to a meeting on 4 March 1966 at the Science Lecture Theatre in the University of Malaya where it was resolved that a "Geological Society of Malaysia" be formed. Fifteen geologists attended this meeting during which a pro-tem Committee with N.S. Haile as Chairman was appointed to take all steps necessary to accomplish this, including drafting a constitution for, and registering, the Society.

In these early stages, it was envisaged that the possible functions of the Geological Society of Malaysia, were to encompass the following:-

- (a) Organizing talks and symposiums on geology, especially the geology of Malaysia and the SE Asian region,
- (b) Issuing a Newsletter which would allow geologists working in Malaysia or interested in the geology of

Malaysia, and the SE Asian region, to be informed of current developments,

- (c) Publishing from time to time a Bulletin, with papers and short notes on the geology of Malaysia and the SE Asian region,
- (d) Informing the public on the cultural and practical value of geology, and
- (e) Communicating with other national and international geological societies and institutions.

The Geological Society of Malaysia was formally established on 31 January 1967 when it had its first Annual General Meeting. The Society has since then and over the past fifty years, more than successfully achieved the envisaged functions and has become one of the more active and successful geological societies in SE Asia. The Society is run by a Council comprising the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and eight Councillors who are elected at every Annual General Meeting (Table 1). The first President of the Society, N.S. Haile of the University of Malaya was elected at the first General Meeting on 31 January 1967. Subsequent Presidents of the Society have come from

Table 1: Annual General Meetings of GSM.

No.	Date	Place	Attendance	No.	Date	Place	Attendance
Inag.	4/3/66	DK2, UM	15	26	25/4/92	MPC, Dayabumi, KL	25
1	31/1/67	Geology, UM	NA	27	30/4/93	MPC, Dayabumi, KL	22
2	26/1/68	Geology, UM	22	28	30/4/94	Federal Hotel, KL	21
3	31/1/69	Geology, UM	NA	29	22/4/95	MPC, Dayabumi, KL	28
4	30/1/70	Geology, UM	NA	30	20/4/96	Kelab Golf PA, KL	30
5	13/2/71	Geology, UM	NA	31	26/4/97	Saujana Hotel, PJ	30
6	4/2/72	Geology, UM	NA	32	25/4/98	H.Singgahsana, PJ	35
7	17/2/73	Geology, UM	30	33	30/4/99	Eastin Hotel, PJ	22
8	22/2/74	Geology, UM	NA	34	28/4/00	Geology, UM	32
9	28/2/75	Geology, UKM	25	35	27/4/01	Eastin Hotel, PJ	26
10	26/3/76	Geology, UM	30	36	26/4/02	Eastin Hotel, PJ	28
11	25/3/77	Geology, UM	21	37	26/4/03	Geology, UM	29
12	24/2/78	R. Universiti, UM	22	38	24/4/04	Eastin Hotel, PJ	22
13	20/4/79	Geology, UM	24	39	23/4/05	Eastin Hotel, PJ	28
14	25/4/80	R. Universiti, UM	32	40	29/4/06	H. Singgahsana, PJ	24
15	10/4/81	Merlin Hotel, KL	40	41	27/4/07	Eastin Hotel, PJ	28
16	27/4/82	Merlin Hotel, KL	25	42	25/4/08	Eastin Hotel, PJ	28
17	23/4/83	Dewan Bahasa, KL	20	43	24/4/09	Geology, UM	22
18	28/4/84	Geology, UM	30	44	25/4/10	Eastin Hotel, PJ	27
19	13/4/85	Hotel Dayang, PJ	18	45	15/4/11	Eastin Hotel, PJ	20
20	28/4/86	R. Universiti, UM	23	46	13/4/12	Eastin Hotel, PJ	15
21	30/3/87	Geology, UM	38	47	5/4/13	Eastin Hotel, PJ	19
22	16/4/88	Geology, UM	18	48	25/4/14	Geology, UM	NA
23	22/4/89	Geology, UM	34	49	25/4/15	Geology, UM	38
24	21/4/90	Geology, UM	23	50	9/4/16	Hilton Hotel, PJ	NA
25	30/3/91	NPC Hotel, PJ	21	Note-NA: Not available			

industry, government and academia with some serving for more than one term (Table 2).

It is difficult to summarize fifty years of history in limited space and time but it is interesting to note that the more important annual events of the Society have occurred at intervals of about ten years. The historical perspective of the Society is therefore, best described in terms of decades.

FIRST DECADE

(31 JANUARY 1967 - 25 MARCH 1977)

During this first decade, the General Meeting, usually with a Presidential Address (Table 3), was the premier annual event and organized together with a Discussion Meeting (half-day to two days) and Society Dinner. The Newsletter of the Society, which first appeared in print in July 1966, was issued regularly every two months, and Bulletins 1 to 7 published, during the first decade (Table 4). Other notable publications include the book on the “Geology of the Malay Peninsula” and the 1:1,000,000 scale coloured geological map of the Malay Peninsula; both published in 1973. The Society Library was also started on 31 January 1967 with the donation of several books by Dr. J. Katili.

Several activities were organized for members during the first decade and included technical talks by local and visiting

geologists as well as fieldtrips and discussion meetings (Table 5). Two Regional Conferences were also organized, i.e. the inaugural Conference on the “Geology of Southeast Asia” (20-25 March 1972) and the Conference on “Mineral Resources and Environment: The Role of Science Teaching” (12-15 April 1976). The Society also hosted the 5th Meeting of the IGCP Circum-Pacific Plutonism Project (12-13 November 1975).

SECOND DECADE

(25 MARCH 1977 - 28 APRIL 1986)

The second decade started with the introduction of the Petroleum Geology Seminar (first held on 16 December 1977). An initially one-day event quickly evolved into a two day event due to over-whelming response from the petroleum sector (Table 6). During the second decade, there were thus two premier annual events, i.e. the Petroleum Geology Seminar, and the Annual General Meeting which again was organized with a two-day Discussion Meeting, Annual Dinner and a Presidential Address (Table 3). The Newsletter of the Society (renamed *Warta Geologi* in January 1975) was issued regularly every two to three months, and Bulletins 8 to 17 were published, during the second decade (Table 7).

Several fieldtrips and discussion meetings with specific themes were organized during the second decade as were

Table 2: Presidents of GSM.

Council	From	Until	Name	Council	From	Until	Name
Pro-tem	4/3/66	31/1/67	N. S. Haile	26	25/4/92	30/4/93	Ahmad Said
1	31/1/67	26/1/68	N. S. Haile	27	30/4/93	30/4/94	Fateh Chand
2	26/1/68	31/1/69	H. C. Olander	28	30/4/94	22/4/95	Fateh Chand
3	31/1/69	30/1/70	C.S. Hutchison	29	22/4/95	20/4/96	Khalid Ngah
4	30/1/70	13/2/71	K. F. G. Hosking	30	20/4/96	26/4/97	Khalid Ngah
5	13/2/71	4/2/72	D. Taylor	31	26/4/97	25/4/98	Khalid Ngah
6	4/2/72	17/2/73	P. H. Stauffer	32	25/4/98	30/4/99	Ibrahim Komoo
7	17/2/73	22/2/74	R. W. Murphy	33	30/4/99	28/4/00	Ibrahim Komoo
8	22/2/74	28/2/75	D. Santokh Singh	34	28/4/00	27/4/01	Abdul Ghani Rafek
9	28/2/75	26/3/76	D. Santokh Singh	35	27/4/01	26/4/02	Abdul Ghani Rafek
10	26/3/76	25/3/77	W. K. Lee	36	26/4/02	26/4/03	Abdul Ghani Rafek
11	25/3/77	24/2/78	B. K. Tan	37	26/4/03	24/4/04	Mohd. Shafea Leman
12	24/2/78	20/4/79	B. K. Tan	38	24/4/04	23/4/05	C. P. Lee
13	20/4/79	25/4/80	B. K. Tan	39	23/4/05	29/4/06	C. P. Lee
14	25/4/80	10/4/81	Mohd. Ayob	40	29/4/06	27/4/07	C. P. Lee
15	10/4/81	27/4/82	Mohd. Ayob	41	27/4/07	25/4/08	Yunus Abdul Razak
16	27/4/82	23/4/83	T. T. Khoo	42	25/4/08	24/4/09	Yunus Abdul Razak
17	23/4/83	28/4/84	T. T. Khoo	43	24/4/09	23/4/10	Yunus Abdul Razak
18	28/4/84	13/4/85	K. M. Leong	44	23/4/10	5/4/11	J.J. Pereira
19	13/4/85	28/4/86	J. K. Raj	45	5/4/11	13/4/12	J.J. Pereira
20	28/4/86	30/3/87	J. K. Raj	46	13/4/12	5/4/13	J.J. Pereira
21	30/3/87	16/4/88	Hamzah Mohamad	47	5/4/13	25/4/14	J.J. Pereira
22	16/4/88	22/4/89	Hamzah Mohamad	48	25/4/14	25/4/15	Mazlan Madon
23	22/4/89	21/4/90	Hamzah Mohamad	49	25/4/15	29/4/16	Mazlan Madon
24	21/4/90	30/3/91	Ahmad Said	50	29/4/16	21/4/17	Mazlan Madon
25	30/3/91	25/4/92	Ahmad Said	51	21/4/17		Abd. Rashid Jaapar

Table 3: Addresses by Presidents of GSM.

No	President	Title of Presidential Address
1	N. S. Haile	“Meaning, Precision, and Quantification in Geology”
2	H. C. Olander	Title not known
3	C.S. Hutchison	“Meditations on Metamorphism”
4	K. F. G. Hosking	“The Search for Tungsten”
5	D. Taylor	“Liberation of minor elements from rocks during plutonic igneous cycle and their subsequent concentration for workable ores with particular reference to copper and tin”
6	P. H. Stauffer	“Malaya and SE Asia in the pattern of continental drift”
7	B. K. Tan	“Structures in Peninsular Malaysia & their interpretations”
8	Mohd. Ayob	“Petroleum Exploration in Malaysia”

Seminars on general topics (Table 8). A number of regional and international Meetings were also organized, including the “International Symposium on the Geology of Tin Deposits” (23-25 March 1978), the “Tin Training Course” (26 March - 15 April 1978), the “Workshop on Stratigraphic Correlation of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia” (8-11 September 1983) and the 5th International Congress (GEOSEA V) on the “Geology and Mineral Resources of Southeast Asia (9-13 April 1984) which was attended by over 300 participants. The second decade also marks the period when informal

discussions started on the formation of the Institute of Geology Malaysia.

THIRD DECADE (28 APRIL 1986 - 22 APRIL 1995)

The Third Decade started with introduction of a two day Annual Geological Conference (first held on 28-29 April 1986) to replace the Discussion Meeting that used to be organized in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (Table 9). This Annual Conference was introduced to provide the locale

Table 4: Bulletins published during first decade (31 January 1967 - 25 March 1976).

No (Year)	Title and Editor
1 (1968)	Studies in Malaysian Geology. 79 p. Edited by P.H. Stauffer
2 (1968)	Bibliography and Index of the Geology of West Malaysia and Singapore. 152 p. D.J. Gobbett
3 (1970)	Papers in Geomorphology and Stratigraphy (with Bibliography supplement). 146 p. Edited by P.H. Stauffer
4 (1971)	Papers in Petrology, Structure and Economic Geology. 100 p. Edited by P.H. Stauffer
5 (1973)	The Search for Tungsten Deposits. 70 p. K.F.G. Hosking
6 (1973)	Proceedings, Regional Conference on the Geology of SE Asia. A Collection of papers, Kuala Lumpur, March, 1972. 334 p. Edited by B.K. Tan
7 (1973)	A collection of papers on geology. 138 p. Edited by B.K. Tan

Table 5: Main activities during first decade (31 January 1967 - 25 March 1976).

No	Date	Place	Activity
1	31/1/67	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
2	2-3/9/67	Raub	Field Meeting
3	14/10/67	Kinta Valley	Field Meeting
4	1-4/11/67	Muda Scheme	Field Excursion
5	27/1/68	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
6	13/10/68	G. Sempah	Fieldtrip
7	19-21/12/69	Ipoh	Discussion Meeting: "Faulting in Malaysia"
8	12/1/70	Sg. Way	Fieldtrip
9	27-31/7/70	Kuching	Discussion Meeting
10	12-13/2/71	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
11	19-19/12/70	Ipoh	Discussion Meeting
12	14/2/71	Rawang	Fieldtrip
13	26/5/72	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
14	20-25/3/72	UM	Inaugural Conference: "Geology of SE Asia"
15	21/7/72	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
16	16-17/2/73	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting
17	8/9/73	Geology UKM	Discussion Meeting
18	14/12/74	Ipoh	Discussion Meeting
19	28/2/75	Geology UKM	Discussion Meeting
20	12-13/11/75	KL	5 th Meeting Circum-Pacific Plutonism Project
21	12-15/4/76	KL	"Mineral Resources - Role of Science Teaching"

and opportunity for local and other geoscientists to meet and discuss ideas, experience and knowledge on topics relevant to Malaysian geology. Premier annual events during the third decade thus consisted of the Annual General Meeting, the two-day Petroleum Geology Seminar, and the two-day Annual Conference which was held at major towns in the different States of Malaysia. During the third decade, the *Warta Geologi* was regularly issued at intervals of two to three months and a total of 19 Bulletins were published (Table 10).

Working Groups on (a) Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology, (b) Economic Geology, (c) Stratigraphy & Sedimentology, (d) Petroleum Geology and (e) Structural Geology & Tectonics were appointed in March 1987 to encourage research in different fields of geology and provide forums for discussion and exchange of ideas and knowledge. Several technical talks, Forums, Seminars and

fieldtrips were arranged by the Working Groups (Table 11), whilst the Society organized a local "Seminar on Tectonics and Environmental Geology" (8 August 1987), and the "International Symposium on Tectonic Framework on Energy Resources of the Western Margin of the Pacific Basin" (29 November - 2 December 1992) with over 500 participants. The third decade also saw the establishment of the Institute of Geology Malaysia and the preparatory work on drafting of the Professional Geologists Act.

FOURTH DECADE (22 APRIL 1995 - 29 APRIL 2006)

The fourth decade was marked by the rebranding of the Petroleum Geology Seminar on 11-12 December 1995 as the Petroleum Geology Conference (and later known as the Petroleum Geology Conference and Exhibition or "PGCE"

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Table 6: Petroleum Geology Seminars (PGS), Petroleum Geology Conferences (PGC), Petroleum Geology Conferences & Exhibitions (PGCE), and Petroleum Geoscience Conferences & Exhibitions (PGsCE).

No.	Event	From	To	Place	Attendance
1	PGS	16/12/77	-	H. Equatorial, KL	160
2	PGS	11/12/78	-	H. Jaya Puri, PJ	175
3	PGS	15/12/79	-	H. Merlin, KL	200
4	PGS	12/12/80	13/12/80	H. Merlin, KL	180
5	PGS	7/12/81	8/12/81	H. Merlin, KL	200
6	PGS	6/12/82	7/12/82	H. Merlin, KL	140
7	PGS	5/12/83	6/12/83	Holiday Inn, KL	NA
8	PGS	3/12/84	4/12/84	H. Merlin, KL	170
9	PGS	6/12/85	7/12/85	Ming Court, KL	200
10	PGS	8/12/86	9/12/86	Ming Court, KL	200
11	PGS	7/12/87	8/12/87	Ming Court, KL	234
12	PGS	5/12/88	6/12/88	H. Merlin, KL	NA
13	PGS	4/12/89	5/12/89	Shangri-la, KL	400
14	PGS	27/11/90	28/11/90	Putra WTC, KL	400
15	PGS	26/11/91	27/11/91	Shangri-la, KL	400
1992, PGS not held, replaced with "Symposium on Tectonic Framework and Energy Resources of the Western Margin of the Pacific Basin"					
16	PGS	7/12/93	8/12/93	H. Concorde, KL	336
1994, PGS not held, replaced with "AAPG-GSM International Conference & Exhibition 1994"					
17	PGC	11/12/95	12/12/95	H. Concorde, KL	432
18	PGC	9/12/96	10/12/96	Renaissance, KL	370
19	PGC	1/12/97	2/12/97	Istana H., KL	300
1998, PGC not held, replaced with GEOSEA '98					
20	PGC	23/11/99	24/11/99	Shangri-la, KL	200
21	PGC	22/11/00	23/11/00	Shangri-la, KL	300
22	PGC	19/9/91	20/9/01	Mutiara H., KL	300
23	PGCE	15/10/02	16/10/02	Istana H., KL	450
24	PGCE	17/12/03	18/12/03	Shangri-la, KL	521
25	PGCE	15/12/04	16/12/04	Istana H., KL	561
26	PGCE	6/12/05	7/12/05	Istana H., KL	NA
27	PGCE	27/11/06	28/11/06	KLCC*	561
28	PGCE	14/1/08	15/1/08	KLCC	1,000
29	PGCE	2/3/09	3/3/09	KLCC	1,600
30	PGCE	29/3/10	30/3/10	KLCC	1,600
31	PGsCE	7/3/11	8/3/11	KLCC	2,084
32	PGsCE	23/4/12	24/4/12	KLCC	>2000
33	PGsCE	18/3/13	19/3/13	KLCC	2,360

Note: NA - Not Available, * KLCC – Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

from 15 October 2002) (Table 6). The PGCE, Annual General Meeting, and the two-day Geology Conference then became the premier annual events of the Society. During the fourth decade, the *Warta Geologi* was issued at variable intervals of between two and four months, whilst *Bulletins* 37 to 49 were published (Table 12).

During the fourth decade, five more Working Groups were appointed, i.e. (a) Environmental Geology & Hydrology (1996), (b) Promotion of Geosciences (1998), (c) Geophysics (1998), (d) Young Geoscientists (2000) and (e) Society Website (2003). Several technical talks, Forums, Seminars and fieldtrips were organized by these

Table 7: Bulletins published during second decade (26 March 1976 - 28 April 1986).

No (Year)	Title and Editor
8 (1977)	A collection of papers on geology. 158 p. Edited by T.T. Khoo
9 (1977)	The relations between granitoids and associated ore deposits of the Circum-Pacific region. 277 p. Edited by J.A. Roddick & T.T. Khoo
10 (1978)	A collection of papers on geology. 95 p. Edited by C.H. Yeap
11 (1979)	Geology of tin deposits. A collection of papers presented at International Symposium on Geology of Tin Deposits. 393 p. Edited by C.H. Yeap
12 (1980)	A collection of papers on geology. 86 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
13 (1980)	A collection of papers on geology of Malaysia and Thailand. 111 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
14 (1981)	A collection of papers on geology of SE Asia. 151 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
15 (1982)	A collection of papers on geology. 151 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
16 (1983)	A collection of papers on geology. 239 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
17 (1984)	A collection of papers on geology. 371 p. Edited by G.H. Teh

Table 8: Main activities during second decade (26 March 1976 - 28 April 1986).

No	Date	Place	Activity
1	13/8/76	Geology UM	Forum: "Role & prospects Malaysian geologists"
2	30/10/76	Bangi	Fieldtrip UKM Campus
3	29/11/76	KL	Symposium: "Quaternary Geology of coastal areas"
4	10/12/76	Ipoh	Discussion Meeting
5	11/12/76	Lahat	Fieldtrip Economic Geology
6	11-12/8/77	KL	National Seminar: "Mining Industry"
7	12/2/78	KL-Karak	Fieldtrip KL-Karak Highway
8	6/10/79	UM	Seminar: "Geotechnical Engineering"
9	1-2/4/80	Tarutao Is.	Fieldtrip
10	25/4/80	KL	Seminar: "Geology of NW Peninsular Malaysia"
11	10-11/10/80	Geology UM	Seminar & Fieldtrip: "Industrial Minerals"
12	13/2/81	UM	Seminar: "Geotechnical Engineering"
13	10/4/81	Geology UM	Seminar: "Geology of Central Belt, Malaya & Thailand"
14	1-6/12/81	Geology UM	Training Course: "Rock in Construction"
15	1-3/12/81	UM	Symposium: "Rock in Construction"
16	30/6/81	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting: "Petrology Evening"
17	8/11/81	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting: "NW Peninsular Evening"
18	11/2/82	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting: "Weathering Evening"
19	10/3/82	Geology UM	Discussion Meeting: "Quaternary Evening"
20	27/4/82	KL	Workshop: "Geoscience Education"
21	10/10/82	Geology UM	Seminar on Industrial Minerals & Rocks
22	25/10/82	Geology UM	Seminar: "Economic Geology"
23	23/4/83	DBP, KL	"Implementation Bahasa Malaysia in Geoscience"
24	13-15/9/83	Geology UM	Compact Course: "Exploration Geochemistry"

new Working Groups as well as those set-up earlier (Table 13). A most commendable project during the fourth decade was that on "Redefinition of GSM" involving the Society Website Group and which culminated with setting-up of the Society's official website (www.gsm.org.my) in 2004.

The Society was also actively involved in a number of international Conferences during the fourth decade, including

co-hosting the "1994 AAPG International Conference & Exhibition" (21-21 August 1994) with 1,108 participants, and organizing "GEOSEA '98" (9th International Congress on the Geology, Mineral & Energy Resources of SE Asia) with 507 participants (17-19 August 1998). The fourth decade also saw formal representations of the Institute of Geology Malaysia to the Government of Malaysia for gazetting the Professional Geologist's Act.

Table 9: Annual Geological Conference (AGC) and National Geoscience Conference (NGC).

No.	Event	From	To	Place	Attendance
1	AGC	28/4/86	29/4/86	UM, KL	60
2	AGC	30/3/87	31/3/87	UKM, Bangi	85
3	AGC	4/1/88	5/1/88	Fraser's Hill	143
4	AGC	14/1/89	15/1/89	Cameron Highlands	160
5	AGC	7/5/90	8/5/90	Ipoh	121
6	AGC	4/5/91	5/5/91	Kuching	200
7	AGC	9/5/92	10/5/92	Kuantan	100
8	AGC	12/6/93	13/6/93	P, Langkawi	150
9	AGC	11/6/94	12/6/94	K. Terengganu	172
10	AGC	27/5/95	28/5/95	Malacca	164
11	AGC	8/6/96	9/6/96	Kota Kinabalu	110
12	AGC	30/5/97	1/6/97	Kijal, Terengganu	167
1998, PGC not held, replaced with GEOSEA '98					
13	AGC	29/5/99	30/5/99	Desaru, Johor	157
14	AGC	8/9/00	9/9/00	Penang	200
16	AGC	2/6/01	3/6/01	Pangkor Island	189
17	AGC	26/5/02	27/5/02	Kota Bharu	165
18	AGC	24/5/03	26/5/03	Kuching	121
19	AGC	4/6/04	6/6/04	Kangar, Perlis	139
20	AGC	4/6/05	5/6/05	Seremban	50
21	NGC	12/6/06	13/6/06	PJ	75
22	NGC	7/6/07	9/6/07	Kota Kinabalu	80
23	NGC	2/6/08	3/6/08	Ipoh	106
2009, NGC not held, replaced with GEOSEA 2009					
25	NGC	11/6/10	12/6/10	Shah Alam	250
26	NGC	11/6/11	12/6/11	Johor Bharu	NA
27	NGC	23/6/12	24/6/12	Kuching	175
28	NGC	8/6/13	9/6/13	Ipoh	247
29	NGC	13/6/14	14/6/14	K. Terengganu	200
30	NGC	31/7/15	1/8/15	Kota Bharu	215
31	NGC	14/11/16	15/11/16	Kuantan	120

Note: NA - Not Available

FIFTH DECADE (29 APRIL 2006 - PRESENT)

The fifth decade started with the rebranding of the Annual Geological Conference (which by then had been held in every State of the country) as the National Geoscience Conference in 2016 (Table 9). The National Geoscience Conference, Annual General Meeting and PGCE thus became the premier annual events of the fifth decade. The first National Geoscience Conference (12-13 June 2006) was held in Kuala Lumpur to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Geology, University of Malaya. The Petroleum Geology Conference and Exhibition was held annually from 2005 to 2010 with an extra meeting on 14 June 2006 (GeoAsia 2006 Petroleum Geology Conference) to cater for the overflow of papers at the 2005 Conference. The Petroleum Geology Conference and Exhibition was

rebranded the Petroleum Geoscience Conference and Exhibition in 2011 and organized twice (7-8 March 2011) and (18-19 March 2013); the cooperative framework between PETRONAS and GSM for organizing this Conference and Exhibition having started in 2011 and ending in 2014. The Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia furthermore, granted GSM in 2012, sole ownership of the name "Petroleum Geoscience Conference and Exhibition".

During the fifth decade, there was marked improvement in the editorial process for publications, with the *Warta Geologi* issued 4 to 6 times a year, and *Bulletins* 50 to 60 published (Table 14). An extremely commendable result of this effort is that the *Bulletin* is now a Scopus indexed publication; an indexed publication that can serve as the premier peer-reviewed record of geoscience knowledge on Malaysia. The 2014/2015 Council has furthermore, taken the

Table 10: Bulletins published during third decade (28 April 1986 - 22 April 1995).

No (Year)	Title and Editor
18 (1985)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 209 p. Edited by G.H. Teh. & S. Paramanathan
19 (1986)	GEOSEA V Proceedings Fifth Regional Congress on Geology, Mineral and Energy Resources of SE Asia. V.I., 652 p. Edited G.H. Teh & S. Paramanathan
20 (1986)	GEOSEA V Proceedings Fifth Regional Congress on Geology, Mineral and Energy Resources of SE Asia. V.II, 881 p. Edited G.H. Teh & S. Paramanathan
21 (1987)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 271 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
22 (1988).	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 272 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
23 (1989)	A collection of papers on the geology of Malaysia, Thailand and Burma. 215 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
24 (1989)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1987 & 1988. 199 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
25 (1989)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 161 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
26 (1990)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1989 and others. 223 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
27 (1990)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology 292 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
28 (1991)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology 292 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
29 (1991)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1990 and others. 255 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
30 (1992)	Annotated bibliography of the geology of the South China Sea and adjacent parts of Borneo. 90 p. N.S. Haile
31 (1992)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1991 and others. 176 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
32 (1992)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 283 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
33 (1993)	Proceedings Symposium on Tectonic Framework and Energy Resources of the Western Margin of the Pacific Basin. 419 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
34 (1993).	Publications of the Geological Society of Malaysia 1967-1993. 181 p. Compiled by T.F. Ng
35 (1994)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1992 and others. 174 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
36 (1994)	Special issue on Petroleum Geology. 186 p. Edited by G.H. Teh

Table 11: Main activities during Third Decade (28 April 1986 - 22 April 1995).

No	Date	Place	Group	Activity
1	3/4/88	K.Selangor	SSG	Fieldtrip to Jeram & Tuan Mee estate
2	2/4/89	Pahang	SGT	Fieldtrip to Bentong-Raub area
3	19/8/89	N.Sembilan	SGT	Fieldtrip to Bahau area
4	12/11/89	Pahang	EconG	Fieldtrip to gold mines in Pahang
5	6 - 9/12/89	UM	PG	“Modern & ancient deep-sea sedimentation”
6	27-30/6/91	Johore	SGT	Fieldtrip to Endau-Rompin
7	6/10/91	K.Selangor	SSG	Fieldtrip to Jeram & BatuArang
8	28-29/9/92	UM	EngG	Forum: “Dam Geology” & damsite visit
9	11-13/1/93	UM	EngG	Forum: “Highway Geology” & site visits
10	1 & 2/7/93	UM	EngG	Forum: “Urban Geology & Engineering”
11	23-25/7/93	Pahang	SGT	Fieldtrip to Cameron Highlands - Pos Blau
12	13-15/8/93	Trengganu	SSG	Fieldtrip to Jenderak & Kenyir
13	11/1/94	UM	EngG	Forum: “Groundwater”
14	15-17/4/94	Pahang	SSG	Permo-Triassic fieldtrip
15	22/7/94	UM	EngG	Forum: “Geology & Hillside Development”

Note: Working Groups set-up March 1987: SSG - Stratigraphy & Sedimentology; EconG - Economic Geology; PG - Petroleum Geology; SGT - Structural Geology & EngG - Engineering Geology & Hydrology

very commendable initiative to upload all Society publications onto its website; a decision that will make the *Warta Geologi* and the *Bulletin* widely available. The Society together with the University of Malaya and sponsored by Murphy Oil Corporation and University of Malaya also published in 2009 the book on “Geology of Peninsular Malaysia”.

During the fifth decade, the then ten existing Working Groups were reorganized into five groups, i.e. (a) Engineering Geology, Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology, (b) Promotion of Geoscience and Young Geologists, (c) Mineral Resources, (d) Regional Geology, and (e) Geophysics. These Working Groups arranged several technical talks, Forums,

Table 12: Bulletins published during fourth decade (22 April 1995 - 29 April 2006).

No. (Year)	Title and Editor
37 (1995)	Proceedings AAPG-GSM International Conference 1994. SE Asian Basins: Oil and Gas for the 21 st Century. 506 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
38 (1995)	A collection of papers presented at GSM Annual Geological Conference 1994 and others. 190 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
39 (1996)	A collection of papers on geology. 258 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
40 (1997)	A collection of papers presented at Annual Geological Conference 1996 and others. 247 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
41 (1997)	A collection of papers presented at Petroleum Geology Conference 1996 and others. 165 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
42 (1998)	Papers from Petroleum Geology Conference 1997, Seminar on Tertiary Basins of Peninsular Malaysia and others. 268 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
43 (1999)	Papers from GEOSEA '98 (Ninth Regional Congress on Geology, Mineral & Energy Resources of SE Asia). 698 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
44 (2000)	A collection of papers from Annual Geological Conference 1999. Western Belt & Paleozoic of Peninsular Malaysia Seminar 1999 & others. 178 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
45 (2002)	Annual Geological Conference 2002. Conference Issue. 375 p. Edited by G.H. Teh, Ismail Yusoff, Azman A. Ghani & T.F. Ng
46 (2003)	Annual Geological Conference 2003 Issue. 489 p. Edited by G.H. Teh, Alex Unya Ambun, Askury Abd. Kadir & T.F. Ng
47 (2003)	Petroleum Geology Conference & Exhibition 2002. 179 p. Edited by G.H. Teh
48 (2004)	Annual Geological Conference 2004 Issue. 130 p. Edited by Lee Chai Peng, Mohd. Shafeca Leman, J.J. Pereira & T.F. Ng
49 (2004)	Collection of Geological Papers. 167 p. Edited by K.K. Liew, Nur Iskandar Taib & T.F. Ng

Seminars and fieldtrips during the fifth decade (Table 15), whilst the Society itself successfully organized “The 11th Regional Congress on the Geology, Mineral and Energy Resources of SE Asia” (GEOSEA 2009) from 8-10 June 2009 with more than 200 participants. A GSM-IGM Joint Committee was set-up on 5 April 2013 and has agreed to participate in the major initiative known as “Geoscience to Action for Disaster Risk Reduction”.

The need for a more permanent Society Secretariat was addressed by the 2015/2016 Council who have reached a general understanding with the Department of Geology, University of Malaya whereby the Society is allowed to continue using its' current space for a nominal monthly contribution and allocation of funds for book purchases by the Department. Although the Society was no longer directly involved, the fifth decade saw the passing of the Geologists Act 2008 (Act 689) on 15 July 2008 by the Malaysian Parliament; an Act that has led to establishment of the Board of Geologists that will regulate geological practice and enhance professionalism of geologists in Malaysia.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

During the initial formation of the Society, various companies were approached for financial contributions, and among the first donations received were those from Anglo-Oriental Ltd., Associated Mines, Johan Tin Dredging, Pacific Tin, G.W. Simms, Shell and Esso Exploration Malaysia Inc. These donations helped to put the Society on a sound financial footing with several hundred Ringgit in credit and

a membership of 134 members by the beginning of 1967. The Petroleum Geology Seminar, which was started on 16 December 1977, soon became accepted as a premier annual seminar on petroleum geology in the SE Asian region and started to generate the much-needed funds for the Society's publications and activities. In order to assist final year students with their theses or research projects, the Society started a Student Loan Fund in 1973, though there have been problems with the repayment of loans.

At the 47th Annual General meeting (5 April 2013), it was announced that a new cooperative framework had been agreed with PETRONAS on the running of the Petroleum Geoscience Conference and Exhibition (PGCE) where funds would be transferred to a newly created GSM Endowment Fund. The Society would administer this fund as a separate account, to ensure that the principal sum is maintained in perpetuity, while the interest it generates is used to conduct capacity building activities. The initial principal sum deposited in the Fund was a few hundred thousand Ringgit but this had increased to over a million Ringgit by 25 April 2015. A Board of Trustees has been appointed to oversee the Fund and it is expected that the funds can be used to implement various GSM programmes including student awards. Accrued interest can only be used at any one time and it is therefore, important that there be continuous expansion of the Endowment Fund as it will serve to improve the fiscal stability of the Society.

The Society mooted the Young Geoscientist Award in 1978 (though rules regarding award were only finalized

Table 13: Main activities during fourth decade (22 April 1995 - 29 April 2006).

No	Date	Place	Group	Activity
1	19/1/95	UM	EngG	Forum: Soil & rock properties
2	16-17/9/95	Kelantan	EngG	Pergau Dam site visit
3	24/10/95	UKM	EngG	Forum: Environmental Geology
4	13/12/95	UKM	EngG	Conference: Persidangan Geologi Abad Ke 21
5	2-4/3/96	UM	SSG	Marine sedimentation in Malaysian record
6	3-4/5/96	UM	SGT	Murau Conglomerate Workshop
7	20/7/96	UKM	EngG	Shah Alam Expressway site visit
8	22/10/96	UM	EngG	Forum: Geohazards: Landslides & Subsidence
9	6/12/96	Putrajaya	EnvG	Fieldtrip to Putrajaya
10	7-8/12/96	UKM	EnvG	Geology, Environmental Impacts & Auditing
11	21/2/98	UM	SSG	Seminar: Tertiary Basins Peninsular Malaysia
12	18/12/98	UM	EngG	Forum: Weather, Weathering & Water Evening
13	8/4/99	UM	EngG	Forum: Malam Geologis Muda
14	10/4/99	UM	SSG	Issues stratigraphy & tectonics in Peninsula
15	14/8/99	UM	SSG	"W. Belt & Palaeozoic of Peninsular Malaysia"
16	26/8/99	IEM	EngG	GSM-IEM Forum Karst Geology & Engineering
17	23-25/9/99	UKM	EngG	2 nd Symp. Engineering Geology & Environment
18	28/10/99	UM	EngG	Malam Jurutera Geotech. Assessment Slopes
19	29/4/00	S. Alam	PromG	Pelancaran peraduan menulis esei geosains
20	28/4/00	S. Alam	PromG	Peranan geosains dlm pembangunan negara
21	13/5/00	UM	SSG	Dynamic Stratigraphy & Tectonics Central Belt
22	13/6/00	JMG Ipoh	GeophG	Penggunaan geofizik dlm geologi kejuruteraan
23	8/7/00	Taiping	PromG	Pelancaran peraduan menulis esei geosains
24	8/7/00	Taiping	PromG	Peranan geosains dalam pembangunan negara
25	11/11/00	UM	PromG	Roles & responsibilities of geologists
26	15/11/00	UM	PromG	Forum: Malam Consultancy Practice
27	14/7/01	UKM	GeophG	Kemajuan terkini kaedah geofizik kejuruteraan
28	23/10/01	UM	EngG	GSM-IEM Forum: Engineering geology slopes
29	10/11/01	UM	EngG	GSM-IEM: Engineering Geology: Case histories
30	25/9/03	UM	EngG	Forum: Malam Jurutera Slope Engineering
31	11/10/03	UKM	GeophG	Utilisation geophysical techniques in SI
32	23/10/03	UM	EngG	Forum: Malam Pencamaran
33	10/2/04	UM	EngG	Forum: Malam Geo-kejuruteraan JMG
34	28/7/04	UM	EngG	Forum: Engineering Geology G&P Night
35	30/3/05	UM	EngG	Forum: Malam Sinkholes

Note: New Working Groups: EnvG - Environmental Geology (set-up 1996); PromG - Promotion of Geosciences (set-up 1998) & GeophG - Geophysics (set-up 1999).

in July 1979) to recognize good publications by young geoscientists (below 30 years of age), and launched the GSM Best Student Award (in Geology) for eligible final year students from each of the local Universities in July 1991. In 1995, the Geoscientist Award was established to award a member, or a group of members, for excellence in original geoscience research and contributed significantly towards the development of geology in Malaysia. At the last Annual General Meeting on 9 April 2016, however, it was reported that there has been a lack of interest in

the Society Awards perhaps due to poor publicity given to the awards and lack of initiative by relevant parties. The Council then decided to rejuvenate these Awards by renaming them as (a) N.S. Haile Publication Award (formerly Young Geoscientist Award), (b) Hutchison Best Student Award (formerly GSM Best Student Award) and (c) D.J. Gobbett Award (formerly Geoscientist Award). An award nomination committee was set-up to administer the awards with funds to be sourced from the GSM Endowment Fund.

Table 14: Bulletins published during fifth decade (29 April 2006 - present).

No (Year)	Title and Editor
50 (2007)	Bibliography and Index of GSM Publications 1994 – 2004. 160 p. Compiled by R.B. Tate
51 (2005)	Annual Geological Conference 2005 Issue. 199 p. Edited by Nur Iskandar Taib
52 (2006)	Collection of geological papers. 135 p. Edited by Nur Iskandar Taib
53 (2007)	Collection of geological papers. 128 p. Edited by T.F. Ng, Nur Iskandar Taib & J.J. Pereira
54 (2008)	Collection of geological papers. 169 p. Edited by T.F. Ng, Nur Iskandar Taib & Samsudin Hj. Taib
55 (2009)	Collection of geological papers. 100 p. Edited by T.F. Ng & Y.L. Lau
56 (2010)	Collection of geological papers. 132 p. Edited by Mohd Shafeea Leman, Basir Jasin, T.F. Ng & C.S. Lim
57 (2011)	Collection of geological papers. 84 p. Edited by T.F. Ng, R.L. Kugler, J.J. Pereira & Ibrahim Komoo
58 (2012)	Collection of geological papers. 96 p. Edited by T.F. Ng & M. Johansson
59 (2013)	Collection of geological papers. 107 p. Edited by A.J. Reedman, Nguyen Thi Minh, C.S. Lim & T.F. Ng
60 (2014)	Charles S. Hutchison Memorial Issue. 99 p. Edited by Lee C.P. & T.F. Ng

Table 15: Main activities during fifth decade (29 April 2006 - present).

No	Date	Place	Group	Activity
1	21/6/06	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2006”
2	20/9/06	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Tunneling”
3	21/3/07	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Cerun”
4	31/7/07	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2007”
5	3/8/08	UM	PromG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan Muda”
6	24/10/08	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2008”
7	18/2/09	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan Tua”
8	14/8/09	UM	IGC	“Malam GEOSEA Reruns”
9	11/11/09	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2009”
10	21/12/09	UM	IGC	“Malam Airtanah 2009”
11	21/12/09	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Airtanah 2009”
12	26/5/10	UM	IGC	“Malam Airtanah”
13	28/7/10	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan I 2010”
14	29/9/2010	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan II 2010”
15	20/10/10	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2010”
16	25/3/11	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Tunneling”
17	8/7/11	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan I 2011”
18	22/9/11	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan II 2011”
19	21/10/11	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Jurutera 2011”
20	30/5/12	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan 2012”
21	5/7/12	UKM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Sekitaran I”
22	18/7/12	UKM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Sekitaran II”
23	8/4/13	UM	EngG	Forum: “Malam Geologi Kejuruteraan 2013”
24	3 - 4/12/13	UMS, KK	SbhG	Seminar: “ Bencana Alam (BENCANA 2013)”
25	3 - 4/12/14	UMS, KK	SbhG	Seminar: “ Bencana Alam (BENCANA 2014)”

Note: EngG - Engineering Geology, Hydrogeology & Environmental Geology (set-up 2008); SbhG - Working Group Sabah; IGC - IGM-GSM Joint Committee

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is clear that the Society has since its formation in 1967 grown in strength over the past 50 years, starting with an initial membership of 134 in 1967 and now standing at 595 (on 8 September 2017). With its main annual events, i.e. National Geoscience Conference, and General Meeting,

as well as the regularly organized technical talks, fieldtrips, Forums, Seminars and Conferences, sound financial position, and timely publication of the *Warta Geologi* and *Bulletin*, the Society can be said to be one of the most active and successful geological societies in SE Asia. The Society has also kept abreast with the evolution of geosciences in general

through the years, from the early days of tin mining through development of the petroleum industry to involvement of geology in engineering projects and more recently in environmental projects. With such a sound track record, the Society can look forward to increasing involvement of geoscientists in national development, particularly with introduction of the Geologists Act (689) in 2008.

There is, however, a need for caution as the present number of Society members (595 on 8 September 2017) is not in tandem with the actual number of registered geologists in the country. On 31 July 2017, there was a total of 1,815 “geologists” registered with the Board of Geologists Malaysia, consisting of 1,228 Registered Professional Geologists, 272 Registered Graduate Geologists, 304 Registered Foreign Geologists and 11 Registered Practitioners. The membership of the Society has also fluctuated greatly over the past two decades with a maximum of 719 members on 31 December 2012 and a minimum of 409 members on 31 December 2000. Several Presidents of Councils in recent years have highlighted the decreasing number of participants at technical talks, Forums and Seminars and other events organized by the Society.

The discrepancy in numbers of “registered geologists” and GSM members, as well as poor participation at technical talks and other events, raises the question on the quality of “Registered Professional Geologists” for most of them do not

appear to be interested in keeping their knowledge and skills current. “CPD” (Continuous Professional Development) is an essential prerequisite in many professional bodies throughout the world for registration as a member, or for extension of membership, as this ensures that the knowledge and skills of the “Professional” is current and up to date.

It is imperative that the Institute of Geology Malaysia and the Board of Geologists Malaysia consider “CPD” (usually calculated in terms of hours) as an essential prerequisite for registration, and extension of registration, of a “Professional Geologist”. The Geological Society of Malaysia will then directly benefit from such a prerequisite as participation in Society events and activities, including technical talks, Seminars, Forums and the like, can be used for calculation of “CPD Hours”. Such a prerequisite, more importantly, will ensure that the knowledge and skill of “Registered Professional Geologists” is current and up to date.

It is hoped that in the years to come, all geologists in the country will register as members of the Society and seek continuously to improve their knowledge and skills by attending and participating in all events and activities organized by the Society.

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