

Geological Hazards Programme

Disasters and Heritage Areas

Lim Choun Sian

SEADPRI-Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Photo by Lim Choun Sian

The CCOP-SEADPRI-ANCST Workshop on Disasters and Heritage Areas was held on 15 October 2017, at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines. The opening address was delivered by Dr. Adichat Surinkum, CCOP Technical Secretariat Director (*right*). SEADPRI-UKM was represented by Dato' Yunus Abdul Razak (*centre*) and Dr. Lim Choun Sian.

The CCOP-SEADPRI-ANCST Workshop on Disasters and Heritage Areas on 15 October 2017 was the second of the workshop series held jointly with the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), SEADPRI and Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST) during the CCOP Annual Session.

The first series, CCOP-VIETADAPT-SEADPRI Workshop on Geoscience supporting risk management, water and food security, was held on 30 October 2016 at The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand with the collaboration of Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), the Vietnamese Sub-Institute of Hydro-Meteorology and Climate Change (SIHYMECC), and the Vietnamese Centre for Water Resources Warning and Forecasting (CEWAFO).

This year the workshop was themed Disasters and Heritage Areas. Heritage areas or sites are cultural and/or natural sites considered to be of outstanding value, selected on the basis of having cultural, historical, and scientific, or some other form of significance. The scope of heritage areas in this workshop expanded to include World Heritage Sites, national heritage sites, geoparks and conservation parks/areas; areas being unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable piece of special cultural or physical significance. The workshop intended to highlight the inclusivity of three elements: heritage areas of national significance, disasters, and humans.

The workshop started with an opening address by the CCOP Technical Secretariat Director, Dr. Adichat Surinkum, followed by three lead presentations and discussion sessions. The presentations were made as examples for thought starters on heritage areas that linked to disasters or potential natural hazards. The first paper titled *Geohazards in Kinabalu World Heritage Site*, presented by Dato' Yunus Abdul Razak of SEADPRI-UKM and Mr. Zamri Ramli of Department of Mineral and Geoscience Malaysia discussed the recent 5 June 2015 earthquake and landslide problem in the surroundings of the Mount Kinabalu areas, and steps taken for its conservation. The second paper, *Natural Hazards in a Prospective Geopark: The Case of Bohol Island Philippines* was presented by Ms Liza Socorro J. Manzano, from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Philippines, where the geological landscapes of the aspiring geopark co-exist with hazards from limestone subsidence and earthquakes; and co-seismic features such as active fault scarps and uplifted lands. The third paper titled *Gombak Selangor (Klang Gates) Quartz Ridge: A Potential Geoheritage as World Heritage Site*, was presented by Dr. Lim Choun Sian of SEADPRI-UKM. The paper featured Gombak Selangor Quartz Ridge, also known as Klang Gates Quartz Ridge, as the longest standing quartz dyke in the region and its vulnerability to natural hazards and anthropogenic threats.

The participants in the discussions came from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and CCOP Technical Secretariat; much interest was shown in understanding the uniqueness of the heritage areas, protection and conservation. It was agreed that, in Southeast Asia, looking at heritage areas from the perspective of disaster threats is a very new dimension and should be explored further.