Learning Biostratigraphy in University of Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta

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Biostratigraphy class is one of many scientific disciplines in the curriculum of Geological Engineering Department, University of Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta. The campus had been located at SWK street 104 North Ringroad, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Province.

Biostratigraphy is a branch of stratigraphy which focus on correlating and knowing relative ages of sediment layers by using the fossil contained within them. This subject was learned in the 5th and 6th semester. The main focus of the study in the 5th semester is on micropaleontology. For students who are interested to continue on stratigraphy, they could take biostratigraphy class in the 6th semester.

There are three lecturers in Biostratigraphy, namely :Ir. Mahap Maha, M.T., (master in biostratigraphy), Ir. Umiyatun Choiriah, M.T., (master in nanoplankton) and Ir. Achmad Subandrio, M.T., (master in planktonic foraminifera). There were 14 lectures on micropaleontology and biostratigraphy. The students were divided into 4 groups with 20 students each. The classes are very interactive with plenty questions and answers in every session, which make great discussions. These discussions made us enjoy the study.



Figure 1. *Microscope cupboard.*

Laboratory sessions were held in the Paleontology laboratory. This laboratory has a complete equipment, such a 20 binocular microscopes, benthonic and planktonic foraminifera models, fossils collection, biostratigraphy chart, and many others (Figures 1 and 2). Paleontology laboratory have 10 lecturer assistants who helped us in practical assignment. In this laboratory, the students are focus on describing the fossils characteristic, include a form, aperture, suture, chamber's amount, and identifying genus and species name. We also learn how to prepare foraminifera fossils from sampling until ready to be identified. At the end of the semester, a field excursion is organized (Figure 3).

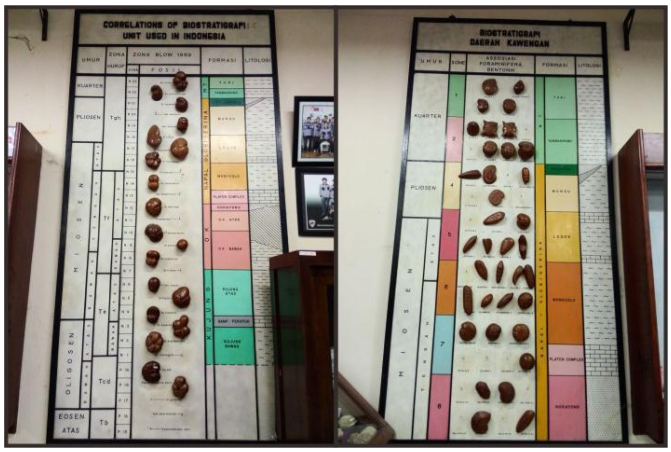


Figure 2. *Biostratigraphic chart.*



Figure 3. *Field excursion.*

Learning biostratigraphy is very delightful. The interactive class, kind lecturers and practically work make us better understanding in biostratigraphy lesson but we think it is better if laboratory session have much longer duration because many of the students do not finish their work on time.