A Guest Lecture and An AAPG Course at Sultan Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia

Reviewed by
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Mr Herman Darman (Shell, The Netherlands) asked me to contribute a paper for a special edition of IAGI 2010 (the Bulletin of the Indonesian Geological Society) at the occasion of the celebration of 50 years of existence. This triggered a series of follow-up activities that are summarised here.

The paper on 'Indonesian Geotourisme and Geoparks' was duly published (Berita IAGI 2010, p. 12-15), but the author felt that the courtesy of being invited for a paper needed reciprocal action and discussed possibilities with Mr. Darman. Thus the idea was born to present a recently published paper on the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the Niger Delta (Stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Niger Delta, Geologos, 2011, 17(3):133-162), and to give a short course on carbonates (syllabus in English by the author) at an Indonesian University during the author's vacation in that country (December 2011-January 2011).

In consultation with Mr Mohammad Syaiful (Secretary General Indonesian Geological Association) and Mr Geovani Christopher Kaeng (AAPG student chapter coordinator) the AAPG student chapter of the Sultan Hasanuddin University in Makassar was requested to organise the event. The effective organisation of Mr Eric Estrada (Vice President AAPG UNHAS SC) and in particular of professor Dr A. M. Imran Oemar (Chairman of the Geological Department of Hasanuddin University) who were so kind to formally invite me, resulted in a three day event with a lecture on the Niger Delta (Tuesday Jan 17th), a one-day course on Carbonate Sedimentology (Wednesday Jan 18) and a field trip on Carbonate Sedimentology in the Maros and Pangkep Area in South Sulawesi (Thursday Jan 19th) (Figure 1). It was a wonderful occasion with interested students who - after some hesitation to express themselves in English - asked many relevant questions and demonstrated their interest and know how. Apparently I was the first foreign visiting scientist at the 36 year old Geology Department of which the facilities are up to date, including a modern conference room. The interest for the event was great.


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CERTIFICATE

Presented to

Dr. Tom J. A. Reijers

who have actively as Lecturer :

Lecture, One Day Course and Field Trip

"CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGY"

Activity :
Tuesday, Jan 17th 2012
Lecture entitled "Stratigraphy and Sedimentology of the Niger Delta
Vanue : TNR Building 3rd Floor, Hasanuddin University, Makassar
Wednesday, Jan 18th 2012
Short course entitled "Carbonate Sedimentology One Day Course
Vanue : TNR Building 3rd Floor, Hasanuddin University, Makassar
Thursday, Jan 19th 2012
Field Trip entitled "Carbonate Sedimentology and Stratigraphy'
Vanue : Maros and Pangkep Area, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Makassar, January 19th, 20

Prof.Dr.rer.nat A. M. Imran Oemar
Chairman of Geology Departement Hasanuddin University

Erik Estrada
Vice President AAPG UNHAS SC

Figure 1. Certificate of having given the lecture and the course. Similar certificates for attending the lecture, the course and participating in the fieldtrip were issued to students.



Figure 2. Pankep Maros karst, locally also known as 'petrified forest' with erosion notches at the base.



Figure 3. Negative handprints (left) and a deer 'pushed' (?) by negative hand prints (right) are fascinating remnants of early inhabitants of the Leang-Leang area in South Sulawesi.

I benefitted personally from the invitation by participating in the fieldtrip to the 'hinterland' of Makassar, where wonderful karst scenery was already described by Russel Alfred Wallace (1869) in his travel book on the Malay Archipelago. This fascinating area is now the field area for students geology and geophysics of Hasanuddin University. We reached the Eocene-Miocene Tonassa limestone - now extensively quarried for cement for the new motorways - over picturesque country lanes through well laid out dessa's between fertile sawah's. Locally, erosion remnants of tower karst 'pinnacles' with tell-tale erosion notches at their base, triggered a discussion about their origin and the interpretation of their geomorphology. Clearly, eustatic sea level rises and/or movement of the South Sulawesi landmass have played a significant role.

The platform and slope facies of the Tonassa Limestones were studied in some outcrops where also inter fingering contacts were exposed with the underlying Malawa Formation, containing some lignite beds. The students geophysics were very interested in an explanation of a potential exploration strategy to investigate the areas for hydrocarbons and many questions were asked about hydrocarbon prospects in Sulawesi. Further courses on such matters are clearly required.



Figure 4. Tower karst scenery around Bantimurung, South Sulawesi.



Figure 5. Colourful butterflies in the Bantimurung butterfly sanctuary, South Sulawesi.

Very much in line with my own approach if I organise and guide geological fieldtrips, the AAPG student chapter also took care of including some touristically interesting sites. Some (of more than 60) caves around the dessa of Leang-Leang were visited. In many paintings of wild pigs, deer and negative handprints are present that have been dated by archeologists at 6.000-30.000 years. They are comparable to paintings in Papua and to aboriginal art in Australia, which opens fascinating speculations on the people that made this art.

Not far from Leang-Leang, the dessa Bantimurung was already in Wallace's time known for the enormous variety in colours and sizes of butterflies (Figure 5) that are diligently studied in an onsite laboratory next to the virgin forestation covering the tower karst karst cliffs (Figure 4) and that are covered over an extensive area by netting to keep the butterflies together.

This fascinating visit to Hasanuddin University clearly asks for repeats. Other geologists travelling in Indonesia should try also to contact local universities in their area of travel, to investigate possibilities to present a lecture or short courses.

I was invited to return in the future and will gladly do so, in particular if combinations are possible with some other universities to make the long voyage to and from Indonesia optimally beneficial. Let me now express my gratitude as follows:

"Saya berterima kasih untuk undangan untuk memberikan Kuliah dan kursus di Makassar. Saya berharap untuk mengunjungi Indonesia di tahun yang akan datang dan mungkin mengunjungi universitas lain dengan program yang sama."

Tom J.A. Reijers, The Netherland



Figure 6. The core group that attended the course and the excursion.