



# GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF HONG KONG NEWSLETTER

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#### Happy New Year!

2009 was a fruitful year of the Society, marked by the well-received North Xinjiang trip in July. There were also over thousand people participated in lectures and field trips under the Geology 360 programme, which was jointly organized with the Hong Kong Science Museum, the University of Hong Kong and government departments.

With the establishment of the Hong Kong National Geopark, there have been rising interests on the geological heritages in Hong Kong. Although most people think that the Geopark will enhance public's awareness in local geology, the Society concerns the potential disturbances to the environment caused by the setting up of Geopark, and the accuracy of information provided in signboards and related publications. This has proved to be a challenging task to the Society, but we will continue to represent professional views on the issue and take appropriate actions when necessary.

Patrick Ho (Secretary, GSHK)

#### Meeting with Mr. Peter Randall, One of the Founders of the Society

A special Christmas gathering dinner was held in the evening of 29.12.2009 at a Chinese restaurant, Loong Toh Yuen at the famous 1881 Heritage, Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui (ex-Marine Police Headquarters) to meet one of our Society's founders, Mr. Peter Randall and his wife Melody Kisson. Mr. Randall said he first came to Hong Kong in 1979 as an engineering geologist with Ove Arup & Partners and was involved in the Mid-levels Study for then Geotechnical Control Office, now Geotechnical Engineering Office. He left Hong Kong in 1984 for Brunei for 6 months and made a decision to go back to England to attend a 2-years Master of Business Administration course in the London School of Economics and Political Science. He now settles in Brussels, Belgium as a senior adviser with Fulcra International Financial Planning.

Mr. Randall remembered an important meeting organized for him on his birthday in May 1982 (not for holding his birthday party) at the laboratory of Civil

Engineering Department of Hong Kong Polytechnics by a group of engineering geologists working in the government, consultants and contractors.

They unanimously decided to set up a non-profit Geological Society of Hong Kong to promote the status of geologists in Hong Kong. The Society was then formally registered in July 1982.



Mr. and Mrs. Randall meeting with GSHK's representatives



Paul Cheung, the Vice President of GSHK, presenting a gift to Mr. and Mrs. Randall

The dinner party was attended by Mr. & Mrs. Randall, Dr. & Mrs. R. Shaw, Dr. D. Martin, Mr. K. W. Lee, Mr. C. M. Lee, Mr. K. W. Lai, Miss. Teresa Lee & Mr. Patrick Ho.

If you are interested in Mr. Randall's publications and

wish to know more about the classification of colluvium, please check the following references:

1. Randall, P. (1983). Field excursion to Chai Wan MTR Depot. Geological Society of Hong Kong Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 7, pp 7.
2. Taylor, B.W. & Randall, P.A. (1983). Engineering geology of colluvium in Hong Kong (Abstract). Abstracts of the Meeting on Geology of Surficial Deposits in Hong Kong, Hong Kong, pp 25. (Published as Geological Society of Hong Kong, Abstracts no. 1, edited by W.W.S. Yim & A.D. Burnett, 1983).
3. Randall, P.A. & Taylor, B.W. (1982). Engineering geology in the Mid-levels Study, Hong Kong. Proceedings of the Seventh Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference, Hong Kong, vol. 1, pp 189-204.
4. Huntley, S.L. & Randall, P.A. (1981). Recognition of colluvium in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Engineer, vol. 9, no. 12, pp 13-18.

Paul Cheung (Vice President, GSHK)

### **Field Trip to San Shek Wan, Search for Garnet and Topaz**

A field trip to San Shek Wan was successfully carried out on 20 December 2009, and attended by more than 30 participants. The group was led by Mr. William Chow and Mr. P S Nau to search for the minerals garnet and topaz.

The group gathered at Tung Chung in the morning and walked along a costal trail to San Shek Wan. A sequence of meta-sandstone, meta-siltstone and granite was exposed at a costal outcrop. A small skarn body was also identified with abundant magnetite and quartz veins.

It is from the magnetite where little red crystals of garnet were found. The group also found some yellow columnar crystals of topaz within the quartz veins.

The group then continued the journey to Tai O and dismissed in the evening.

Patrick Ho (Secretary, GSHK)



**Group photo taken at Tai O, final destination of the trip**



**Topaz crystals found within quartz vein**



**A Garnet crystal**

**(photo by Felix Lee and Cindy Wong)**

### **Membership Renewal for 2010**

Please renew your membership for 2010. The membership application / renewal form can be downloaded from the Society's webpage at <http://www.geolsoc.org.hk/membership.htm>

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