

# 香港地質學會

## The Geological Society of Hong Kong

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## Obituary

### Dr David Workman

The Society notes with great sadness the recent passing of Dr David Workman, former Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Geology at The University of Hong Kong.

After graduation in the UK, David was briefly employed at the University of Leeds, before joining the then Overseas Geological Survey (OGS) of the British Ministry of Overseas Development as a Senior Scientific Officer from 1963 to 1968. During this period he carried out geological mapping and mineral exploration in Lesotho, Thailand and Laos, followed by a two-year secondment as an adviser to a United Nations Development Programme Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, based in Bangkok.

David was then promoted to Principal Scientific Officer in the Overseas Division of the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS, successor to the OGS) and spent two more years on mineral exploration projects in Turkey and Korea, before rejoining the UNDP Committee for the Lower Mekong as a Programme Officer from 1972-1976. This was followed by further mineral surveys in Korea, and planning investigations for dam and irrigation projects in Thailand, during a brief period working for a US engineering consultancy based in Denver. In 1977 David took up broader responsibility for regional mineral resources development, as an Economics Affairs Officer attached to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, also based in Bangkok.

David joined HKU in late 1979 and was Lecturer (1979-1981) and then Senior Lecturer in Geology for a total of 18 years, up to his retirement in late 1997. He first joined the Department of Geography and Geology (later the Department of Geography), but switched to the new Earth Sciences Unit in 1993, to begin undergraduate teaching for the new BSc in Earth Sciences, along with Professor

Wyss Yim, and remained there as Senior Lecturer when the Department of Earth Sciences was formally established in 1995.

DES alumni from those early years will recall David's warm and friendly teaching style, his wide-ranging knowledge of the geology of Hong Kong and the region, and lectures fully illustrated by many of his fine field photographs. He was widely respected for the quality of his teaching and academic writing, and also as a dedicated and inspiring supervisor.

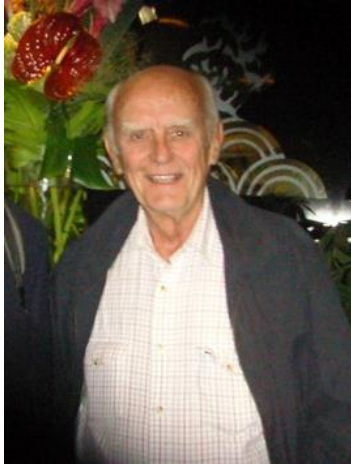
David was one of the founder and an active supporter of the GSHK throughout his time in Hong Kong, helping to organise and lead field trips and seminars, and as Secretary to the committee from 1982 to 1987 and as Chairman from 1987 to 1988. David was very keen to follow the news of Hong Kong and he was involved in heritage protection works in Hong Kong 2 years ago.

David's authoritative knowledge of regional geology led to him authoring or co-authoring four key contributions (on the geology of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) in the Encyclopedia of European and Asian Regional Geology (eds. Moores & Fairbridge, 1998). He also co-authored a 100-page summary of the geology of Hong Kong published in the Bulletin of the Association of Engineering Geologists in 1989. These were among some 40 other publications up to the late 1990s, mainly on the geology, mineral resources and tectonics of South East Asia.

After leaving HKU, David retired to Bath in Western England with his family and remained active for many years, leading geological walking tours through the city based on the variety of building and paving stones used in Bath's historical architecture.

The funeral will be held at 1pm on Monday, 25th September at Haycombe Crematorium (209 Whiteway Road, Bath BA2 2RQ, England, UK), followed by a reception at The Boathouse (Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3NB). David's family would welcome any GSHK members to attend and help celebrate David's life.

Below is a picture of David taken in 2012



Paul Cheung

Vice President

Geological Society of Hong Kong

p.s. The above message was written by Dr. Dick Martin with information provided by Prof. L S CHAN and Kennex of Earth Sciences Department in the University of Hong Kong