



STUDY FIELD TRIP TO MINERAL ORE DEPOSITS IN WESTERN UGANDA

This trip was conducted by the executive committee SEG-MUK student chapter and took place from 23rd January to 25th January, 2014. Five undergraduate (1st /2nd /3rd year) students participated in this trip to peculiar areas that included Hima cement industry and Kilembe copper mines in Kasese district.

Day 1 (23rd)

Trip participants gathered at geology department, Makerere University and left at about 14:00 after lunch using a taxi and then a public boarded a public bus to Kasese district.

This took about 8 hours to reach our rest house (Divine guest house) in Kasese town a distance of greater than 330km thus took supper and rested.

Day 2 (24th)

At 09:00 after breakfast, we took a taxi and reached Hima cement plant a few metres from Kasese town at about 10:30.

We were welcomed hospitably with a safety and precaution presentation from Mr. Joseph Kabaseke, a Public Relations and Communications Officer formely working as a mining supervisor.



i) reception at Hima cement



ii) during a safety and precaution presentation

At about 12:15 after the presentation, a mining quarry manager drove us to the limestone quarry a few metres from the plant. Excavation of the top cover soil is followed by drilling where samples are obtained and taken to the laboratory for chemical analysis. Blasting follows using explosives according to chemical analysis of samples from different drilled spots.



iii) the drilling machine used at the quarry



iv) at the limestone quarry

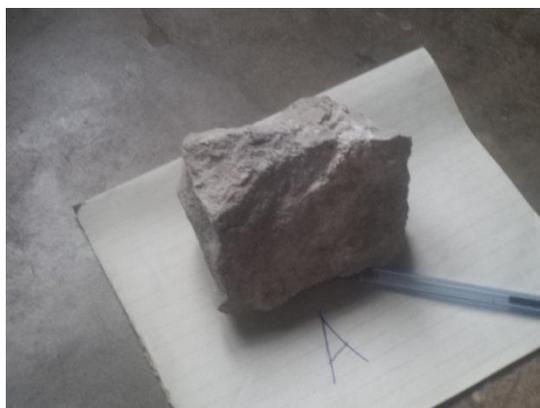


v) an explosive used in blasting



vi) interaction with quarry manager

Quarried limestone stones are transported to the plant and the excavated area is rehabilitated at the end.



vii) limestone sample



viii) limestone sample with fossils

At about 14:30 after lunch, a presentation on analytical physical and chemical processes in cement production was given to us by Mr. Philemon Mubiru a laboratory chemist. This involved crushing and screening of limestone, addition of quick lime (CaO), combustion of products at high temperatures, addition of pozzolana and other processes.



ix) crusher



x) participants from left (Davis M., Catherine, Bright M., Hellen B., Mariko B.,)

Day 3 (25th)

At 08:30 after breakfast, we travelled to Kilembe copper mines using motorcycles a few metres from Kasese town to an area known as Nyamwamba.

At about 09:10, we reached Kilembe offices and we were hospitably welcomed by Mr. Alex Binego Kwatampora, a senior geologist and materials engineer who gave us a brief presentation on prospecting for more mineral ore deposits of copper and cobalt in the area. This included mapping of new and old and new mineral deposit areas, some drilling for core samples, digitizing old and new geological data and others.



xi) malachite (Cu ore) sample



xii) pyrite (Co ore) sample



xiii) chalcopyrite embedded with calcite



xiv) geological map for the prospected area

This followed a short traverse around the abandoned copper plant where the only activity is pumping out of water from the mine to avoid flooding.



xv) participants with Mr. Alex (on the far right end)

After Kilembe, we travelled back taking a view of sediment traces of the disastrous flooded river Nyamwamba that occurred in May, 2013 which involved loss of property.



xvi) sediment boulders along the banks of the once flooded R. Nyamwamba

Another stop was made at the hot springs near Nyamwamba where natives traditionally go for healing of different sicknesses.



xvii) *a sick woman undergoing ‘treatment’ in the hot spring as others enjoy the warmth of the water*

At about 11:00 we ended the trip and departed to our respective destinations.

In conclusion we would like to thank mostly SEG for its financial contribution as well as officials at Hima cement industry and Kilembe copper mines for their warm reception and allowing us to visit their facilities. Appreciation also goes to the Head of geology and petroleum studies department for his encouragement and support.

