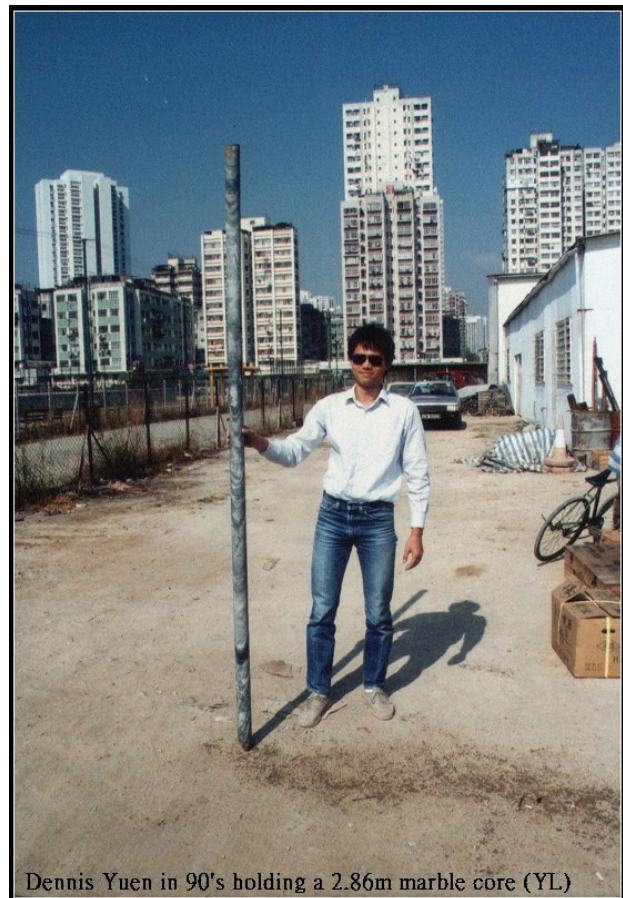


Recovery of Marble Rock Core from a Deep Borehole at Martin Road, Yuen Long

It is common to recover rock samples in the deep drilling boreholes nowadays. However, it was not easy back in 20 years ago. In a geological study carried out between 1988 and 1990 in the Northwest New Territories (from Lo Wu to north of Tuen Mun), incredible marble rock cores were recovered from deep boreholes. The photo below shows one of the rock cores collected from the Study.

The rock core shown in the photo was marble of light grey in colour with sporadic tiny pinkish red garnets (1mm - 2mm). 2.86m in length, the core was recovered from a borehole at Martin Road in Yuen Long by a 3m long core barrel. The colour of marble in this borehole changed along increasing depth from pure white to light grey but black marble was never seen in this layer even at the bottom depth of this borehole (432m) of which the drilling work completed in 3 months time. The rock sample was sound and intact at the time of recovery. It was rare to recover such an intact rock core without joints and high percentage recovery. The geologist in the picture stays young in geological era.



Dennis Yuen in 90's holding a 2.86m marble core (YL)

For your interest, report of the Study “Geology of Yuen Long” was published in Hong Kong Geological Survey Sheet Report No. 1 together with a series of geological maps (1:5000) by Geotechnical Engineering Office of CED in 1992.

Information provided by Dennis Yuen