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Field Trip to Kwun Yum Shan, Kardoorie Farm on 27th January 2008

- by Jeffrey Wong

It was a chilly day on 27 January 2008 when the GSHK participants attended a field visit to Kwun Yam Shan, Shek Kong, which was led by Mr. C M Lee, our experienced geologist.

Before visiting the interesting geological features on the hilltop of Kwun Yam Shan, we needed to pass through the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden where we saw many living creatures. The pigs in the picture belong to the Dahuabai (大花白) species originated from South China. Nevertheless, the commercial value of this species is low and few farmers at present are still rearing it.



We then walked up the hill for about 1.5 hours and found this tablet, where we learnt that Kwun Yum Shan has been a sacred place of worship for more than 500 years, by the presence of many ancient altars.

There are several "hot pots" near the top of the hill. According to the display board, these hot pots are outlets of warm and moist air, which is heated below the ground and ejected through fissures and cracks in the rocks. In ancient time, these hot pots were mysteriously considered as "dragon's breath".



The geology of the Kwun Kam Shan was previously mapped as granodiorite on the published 1:20,000-scale geological map.

Mr. C M Lee pointed out that the characteristics of the rock here, however, were more likely to be pyroclastic in nature. Mineral veins of quartz, pyrite and galena can be identified. The figure below shows an outcrop of the rock in question. Large crystals of quartz are present in the rock.

According to the latest updating of the geology of the district, the Hong Kong Geological Survey has now re-interpreted the rock as an altered intrusive rhyolitic hyaloclastite. It is possible that the outcrop marks a vent feeder of the volcanic rocks of the Shing Mun Formation.



Before returning to the urban area, we got a chance to visit the market for organic farmers. Let's have a look of what you can buy in the market.

See you in our field trip next time.

Coming Events

Geological Excursions

27.01.2008 Kwun Yam Shan, Kardoorie Farm 嘉道理農場觀音山

(Leader: Mr. CM Lee; Deadline for registration: 23.01.2008)

27.04.2008 Cape D'Aguilar 鶴咀

21-24.03.2008 The Philippines 菲律賓

August 2008 Northern Xinjiang 北疆

(Further details to be announced.)

Hong Kong Geologist

The Journal of the Geological Society of Hong Kong Call for Contributions

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