



Granite quarrying in the Tak batholith, Northern Thailand

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Granite, marble and sandstone are important building materials worldwide and therefore can be regarded as valuable natural resources for a country. Beneath the deposits of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, Thailand holds large quantities of granitic rocks due to occurrences of the Southeast-Asian batholithic intrusions. The Tak granite batholith in the Tak province of Northern Thailand is part of these intrusions that extend from Indonesia to the provinces of South China, covering the Thai-Malay Peninsular, Eastern Myanmar, Northeastern Thailand and Western Laos. The batholith, about 500 km in the North-Northwest of Bangkok, is the most important local area for the granite dimension stone industry in Thailand. The quarried products range from fine-, medium- to coarse-grained granites or diorites, which are mainly distributed on the domestic market. Compared to other granite producing provinces in Thailand, the Tak province ranked first over the years from 1997 to 2001 concerning the annual production of raw material. Although the production rates decreased from 1997 to 2001 due to an economic crisis in 1997, the region has held its first rank until the beginning of a recovery in 2001. It is to assume that the Tak province still takes this position at the present time. As an example for the granite dimension stone production in Thailand, information on the quarrying and processing activities in the Tak granite batholith are presented and discussed.