GEOCHEMICAL STUDY ON HOT SPRING WATER IN KOTAMOBAGU GEOTHERMAL FIELD, NORTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT
Sixteen water samples were collected from thermal spring, river, and shallow well in Kotamobagu geothermal field. Temperature of waters, Electronic Conductivity (EC) and pH were measured on site and chemical analysis in laboratory. The analyzed results were plotted on Cl-SO4-HCO3 ternary diagram, and characterized into form groups of SO4, Cl-SO4, and HCO3 From Na-K-Mg plot, one hot spring water is determined as a partially equilibrium water, and all other samples are immature waters. The geochemical temperature was calculated by quartz no steam loss is about 160°C. The maximum temperature with Na-K-Ca-Mg geothermometer is estimated in a range 180-220°C with the maximum of 260°C. A conceptual model of hydrothermal system of Kotamobagu was developed.

INTRODUCTION
Kotamobagu geothermal field locates in North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, 200 km to the southwest of Manado city, capital of the province (Fig.1). The field has been proved to be one of the geothermal prospects in Indonesia (Hochstein and Sudarman, 2008). PT. Pertamina Geothermal Energy (PT.PGE) conducted reconnaissance and feasibility studies in Kotamobagu and concluded that the field has high potential for power generation. The results, however, have not been reported in detail in public nor has a conceptual model of the field not been developed yet. Thus, we have carried out geochemical survey in this area and tried to develop a conceptual model of hydrothermal system in Kotamobagu.

GEOLOGY
Geological Setting
Geological map of Kotamobagu is shown in Fig.2. The area is covered by the Tertiary and the Quaternary rocks. The Tertiary sedimentary rocks consist of shale and sandstone with intercalation of limestone and chert, and are overlain by the Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks. The Tertiary rocks are limestone and chert, and are overlain by the Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks. The Tertiary volcanic rocks are the products of Old volcano and consist of breccia, tuff, andesitic lava, dacite and rhyolite to form Mt. Simut and Mt. Lemibut located to the north of Mt. Muayat. The Quaternary volcanic rocks consist of the Old and Young Ambang volcanic. Tuff-pumice and andesitic-breccia are the products of the Old Ambang Volcano. The Young Ambang volcanic rocks consist of andesitic lava and magma breccia are overlain Mt. Muayat, Mt. Banga, and Mt. Ambang asymmetrically.

Geological Structure
Faults in Kotamobagu have directions northwest to southwest, northeast to southwest and west to east as shown in Fig. 2. In this figure, the fault is indicated...
with solid line and the inferred fault with dashed line. A fault system with a direction of west to east which is crossing the sedimentary rocks controls the appearance of hot springs at Pusian and Bakan, located to the southwest and south of Kotamobagu. Another fault system with a direction of northwest to southeast controls the presence of hot springs at Lobong in the east of Kotamobagu (PT.PGE, 2005). Fumaroles on top of Mt. Muayat located in the east of Kotamobagu have a high temperature 102.7°C and are associated with faults running northeast to southwest (PT.PGE, 2005). This fault system also controls an appearance of hot spring at Liberia village as well as Bongkudai village.

**Sampling Location**

Water samples at sixteen locations were collected from hot spring and shallow wells in the area 20 km NS and 30 km EW of Kotamobagu. As shown in Fig. 2, elevation of sampling site ranges from 144m up to 1438 m. Sample MUAH-16 was collected at a natural discharge at an elevation 1438 m near fumaroles on top of Mt. Muayat. The number of the sample ID corresponds to that in Fig.2. Two samples were collected from shallow wells; LOBH-9 from the well of 20 m depth and MOTH-12 from that of 80m. The river water was collected on the slope of Mt. Muayat; LIBR-4. Hot springs at Bakan (BAKH-6 and BAKH-7) and Abak (ABAH-8) are located the south eastern end of Kotamobagu, about 20 km south east of Mt. Muayat. Samples at Liberia village (LIBH-1, LIBH-2, LIBH-3, BONH-5, BILH-13, WANH-14, LOBH-9), and 1376-3210 µS/cm (BAKH-6, BAKH-7, ABAH-8, LOBH-10, KAPH-11, MOTH-12). Temperature of hot spring waters shows relatively high, 70-93 °C, for BAKH-6, BAKH-7, ABAH-8, LOBH-10, KAPH-11. These hot springs discharge at the margin of Kotamobagu (Fig.2) whereas other hot springs in closer locations to Mt. Muayat where active fumaroles present and their temperature are relatively low temperature; 37-52 °C.

**Sampling Method and Analysis**

**Methods**

All samples were collected in 250 ml polythene bottle after filtrating by 0.45µm membrane filter. Water temperature, Electric Conductivity (EC) and pH were measured on site by portable instruments. The anion (F, Cl, NO₃, SO₄) and cation (Na, NH₄, K, Mg, Ca) were analyzed using ion chromatography system (Dionex ICS-90). Bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) was measured using a titration method. Concentration SiO₂ and Fe total were measured by spectrophotometer (Hitachi U 1800) using the molybdate yellow method.

**Result and Discussion**

**Water Chemistry**

Analyzed results are summarized in Table 1. Samples of LIBR-4, MUAH-15, MUAH-16 show very acidic as low as pH about 2, and high conductivities in the range from 2860 to 5670µS/cm. Other samples have pH of relatively neutral about 6-7. Samples are divided into two groups with respect to EC; 240-698 µS/cm for (LIBH-1, LIBH-2, LIBH-3, BONH-5, BILH-13, WANH-14, LOBH-9), and 1376-3210 µS/cm (BAKH-6, BAKH-7, ABAH-8, LOBH-10, KAPH-11, MOTH-12). Temperature of hot spring waters shows relatively high, 70-93 °C, for BAKH-6, BAKH-7, ABAH-8, LOBH-10, KAPH-11. These hot springs discharge at the margin of Kotamobagu (Fig.2) whereas other hot springs in closer locations to Mt. Muayat where active fumaroles present and their temperature are relatively low temperature; 37-52 °C.

**Figure 3: Ternary plot for Cl, SO₄, HCO₃**

MUAH-16 is plotted on the corner of SO₄ indicating of steam heated water. As this sample was collected near fumaroles at the top of Mt. Muayat, H₂S gas released from deep CL-SO₄ water by boiling at depth react with oxygen rich near surface water and form SO₄ rich acidic water. At lower elevation of Mt. Muayat, there are natural discharges from the surface of cliff where MUAH-15 was collected. This sample is of Cl-SO₄ type, and this discharge may be directly delivered from a lateral flow of deep Cl-SO₄ water. Furthermore, this sample is plotted between MUAH-16 and MUAH-15 on the SO₄-Cl axis. This implies the river water is a mixture of waters of MUAH-16 and MUAH-15. Samples collected at lower elevations on the southern slope of Mt. Muayat are
plotted on the corner of HCO$_3^-$ and are identified as of HCO$_3^-$ type. Bicarbonate water may occur near the surface in geothermal areas where steam containing carbon dioxide condenses into an aquifer. Under stagnant conditions, reaction with rocks produces neutral pH and discharges as hot springs such as in Liberia, Bongkudai, Bilalang and Wangga (LIBH-1, LIBH-2, LIBH-3, BONH-5, BILH-13 and WANH-14).

High concentration of Cl in Lobong, LOBH-10, may be caused by geothermal waters from the depth flow through a fault where interaction with sedimentary rocks occurred before discharging as hot spring.

**Geothermometer**

Quartz and Na-K-Ca-Mg geothermometers were used for temperature calculations; Quartz no steam loss and $\alpha$-Cristobalite (Fournier, 1977), and Na-K-Ca-Mg with Magnesium corrected (Fournier and Potter II, 1979).

Results of geothermometer computation show the minimum temperature by quartz no steam loss is about 160 $^\circ$C (Fig.4). The temperatures with the Na-K-Ca-Mg geothermometer are calculated in a range from 180 to 220 $^\circ$C for LIBH-1, LIBH-2, LIBH-3, BONH-5 and about 260 $^\circ$C for MOTH-12.

**Conceptual Model**

On the basis of the results above, a conceptual model of a hydrothermal system in Kotamobagu was developed as shown in Fig.6 High temperature geothermal fluid of Cl-SO$_4^-$ type flows upward below Mt. Muayat and eventually starts boiling at depth, releasing H$_2$S gas which forms steam heated waters near the fumaroles by mixing with oxygen rich surface water. The deep water also flows laterally to the south and discharges Cl-SO$_4^-$ type water. This deep water further flows south through fault systems to lower elevation and discharged to the surface.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Geochemical studies in the Kotamobagu geothermal field are summarized as follows:

1. The water samples are divided into three groups: SO$_4^-$, Cl-SO$_4^-$, HCO$_3^-$ types.
2. Hot spring waters in high elevations of Mt. Muayat are acidic and of SO$_4^-$ and of Cl-SO$_4^-$ type.
3. Hot spring waters of lower elevation of Mt. Muayat are of HCO$_3^-$ type.

5. Conceptual model of a hydrothermal system in Kotamobagu was developed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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REFERENCES
Table 1: Results of chemical analysis of waters in Kotamobagu.

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Figure 2: Geological Map of Kotamobagu (Modified from PT.PGE (2005)).