

# Servicing of Seismic Stations in Sarawak, Borneo.

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In March 2020, I was given the opportunity to deploy four temporary (12 months) seismometers in Sarawak, East Malaysia (Borneo). I was excited to go out for fieldwork and set up a working seismic station, which I had never done before. Despite the rising fear of COVID19, the deployment went smoothly. The installation of the last seismic station was completed the day before the start of a nationwide lock-down.

The first service of the seismic stations was in September of 2020, six months after the installation. For this, I applied and was awarded the Gray-Milne travel fund for £500, which helped cover most travelling costs such as vehicle rent, accommodations, and food. The journey included ~700 km drive, ~6 hours boat ride, and ~4 hours plane ride along the western coast of Borneo.

One site I looked forward to servicing is SK Nanga Mujong, a primary school in rural Kapit. During the installation six months earlier, it was fun to interact with the students and school staff, showing them how the instrument works and what it does. However, the school was empty and quiet when we arrived for the first service as classes were moved to home-based teaching and learning.

Every site service takes around 45 to 75 minutes to be serviced, including site clean-up and data download. It could take longer for a site with a problem with its GPS receiver or its instrument not booting up. Usually, complications with the instruments could take hours, especially if it involves digging them out. Fortunately, the first service for all four seismic stations in September of 2020 went well. All four instruments had worked as intended, having recorded a good amount of earthquake data locally and globally.

I would like to thank the British Geophysical Association (BGA) for awarding me the Gray-Milne travel bursary for 2020. The travel fund helped make the seismic stations' first service possible and allowed me to collect data for my research. I would also like to thank Linang (father) and Chendan (uncle) for making the fieldwork lively.

