

**SEDIMENTOLOGY OF THE LOI-AN GROUP
IN THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE SHAN PLATEAU,
THAZI AND KALAW TOWNSHIPS**

PhD DISSERTATION

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MAY, 2011

ABSTRACT

The present study area covers the easternmost part of the Thazi Township and westernmost part of the Kalaw Township. The present work attempts to make a detailed sedimentary facies analysis to deduce the sequential evolution of the Loi-an Group using the sequence stratigraphic concepts.

The Loi-an Group conformably underlies the red beds of the Taungni Formation (Lower Cretaceous) and unconformably underlies the Kalaw Group (Upper Cretaceous) and unconformably overlies the Lebyin Group (Carboniferous-Permian) and the Plateau Limestone (Permian-Triassic).

The previous workers have adopted different stratigraphic names for various formations in the Loi-an Group. In the present work, the Loi-an Group is treated as two broad sedimentological divisions, the lower turbiditic division and the upper non-turbiditic division, according to the sedimentary facies associations recognized.

Modal analysis on the sandstone provides a characteristic feldspathic lithic arenite ($Q_{66}-F_6-L_{28}$) for the sandstones of the lower turbiditic division and quartz arenite ($Q_{92}-F_1-L_7$) for the sandstones of the upper non-turbiditic division. Minor carbonate rock types of the lower turbiditic division are argillaceous limestones, bioclastic limestones and dolostone.

In the lower turbiditic division, seven major clastic facies are recognized and grouped into three facies associations. The seven major clastic facies recognized are massive, thick-bedded sandstone facies, thinly interbedded sandstone-shale facies, horizontal and low-angle planar laminated sandstone facies, medium to thick-bedded sandstone with crude cross-bedding facies, mudstone facies, thinly interlayered sandstone-marls facies and marls facies. The three facies associations are upper fan facies association, middle fan facies association and lower fan facies associations. These facies associations are assigned to the delta-fed submarine fan system.

Carbonate rocks are classified into seven microfacies. They are lime mudstone facies, bioclastic mudstone facies, bioclastic peloidal grainstone facies, bioclastic packstone-grainstone facies, intraclastic wackestone-packstone facies, bioclastic pelletal

grainstone facies and dolostone facies. They are interpreted to have been deposited in the peritidal environment ranging from subtidal to supratidal areas.

In the upper non-turbiditic division, a total of five major clastic facies is recognized. They are sandstone interlayered with shale partings facies, carbonaceous shale facies, cross-bedded (small-scale) sandstone facies, thinly interbedded sandstone-mudstone facies and thick-bedded mudstone facies. They are grouped into three facies associations, namely, distributary channel facies association, interdistributary bay (or) marsh facies association and overbank facies association. The depositional environment is interpreted as a delta-plain environment.

The turbiditic sequence is divisible into three system tracts, viz., lowstand system tract, transgressive system tract and highstand system tract. The maximum flooding zone is noted between the transgressive system tract and the overlying highstand system tract as indicated by the occurrence of a bioturbated horizon and phosphate minerals in the sandstones of this zone. The non-turbiditic sequence is divided into late transgressive system tract and early/late highstand system tract. Coal seam in this sequence may represent a flooding surface of a delta system.

The sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy indicate that the Loi-an Group represents a delta-fed submarine fan deposit that shallows up into deltaic deposits. The depositional system of the Loi-an Group is interpreted to be a transition from the delta – fed submarine fan deposition of the lower turbiditic division at the mouth of the shelf-marginal area through the intraslope and coastal marginal deltaic deposits of the upper non-turbiditic division in response to relative sea-level changes.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		Pages
	ABSTRACT	i
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
	CONTENTS	iv
	LIST OF FIGURES	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xvii
I	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 Location of the Study Area	1
	1.2 Previous Works	1
	1.3 Purpose of the Study	4
	1.4 The Scope of Work and Methods of Study	5
II	GEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK	
	2.1 Regional Geologic Setting	6
	2.2 Rock Sequence	9
	2.3 Loi-an Group	10
	2.3.1 Lower turbiditic division	12
	2.3.2 Upper non-turbiditic division	20
III	PETROGRAPHY	
	3.1 General Statement	23
	3.2 Petrography of Lower Turbiditic Division	
	3.2.1 Sandstone petrography	23
	3.2.2 Carbonate rock petrography	23
	3.3 Petrography of Upper Non-turbiditic Division	
	3.3.1 Sandstone petrography	36
	3.3.2 Carbonate rock petrography	29
	3.4 Diagenesis of Carbonate Rock	40

IV	SEDIMENTARY FACIES ANALYSIS	
4.1	General Statement	47
4.2	Sedimentary Facies Analysis of Lower Turbiditic Division	
4.2.1	Clastic facies analysis	47
4.2.1.1	Facies associations	61
4.2.1.2	Depositional environment	65
4.2.2	Carbonate microfacies analysis	72
4.2.2.1	Facies associations and depositional environment	85
4.3	Sedimentary Facies Analysis of Upper Non-turbiditic Division	
4.3.1	Clastic facies analysis	87
4.3.1.1	Facies associations	95
4.3.1.2	Depositional environment	99
V	SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS	
5.1	General Statement	101
5.2	Sequence Stratigraphic Implications of Lower Turbiditic Division	
5.2.1	Parasequences	106
5.2.2	Parasequence stacking patterns (or) Types of parasequence set	106
5.2.3	Parasequence set boundaries	107
5.2.4	Lowstand system tract	107
5.2.5	Trangressive system tract	108
5.2.6	Condensed section	108
5.2.7	Maximum flooding zone	109
5.2.8	Highstand system tract	109
5.2.9	Fan development during lowstands	110

5.3	Sequence Stratigraphic Implication of Upper Non-turbiditic Division	
5.3.1	Late transgressive system tract	111
5.3.2	Emergent surface	111
5.3.3	Highstand system tract	113
5.4	Sequence Evolution	114
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION		127
REFERENCES		130