# **Part III**

# CONCLUSION AND PROPOSAL

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### **Chapter 1: Conclusion**

Analysis of existing data, analysis of satellite images, and a geological survey were conducted in this fiscal year for regional survey of Ni-Cu-PGE ore deposit accompanied with the Paraná flood basalt. The analysis of existing data covered flood basalt volcanism in the world, the Noril'sk ore deposit and geology of the Paraná basin, while the analysis of satellite images focused on JERS-1/SAR images. The geological survey included mainly whole rock analysis, geochemical analysis of trace elements and isotope analysis of the Paraná flood basalt.

### 1-1 Analysis of Existing Data

Flood Basalt: The well differentiated continental crust contains little platinum group elements (PGE) because the PGE was enriched in the core in the genesis of the Earth, and they are enriched basically in solid phase. Consequently, it is appropriate to trace the origin of the PGE in flood basalt to the mantle. Since a magma of flood basalt generates in a larger quantity than magmas of normal igneous rocks, a large-scale melting occurred. As the result, a comparatively large quantity of PGE what is enriched generally in solid phase may probably be contained in the melt produced. On these premises, it can be said that it is desirable that the origin of flood basalt magma, which causes PGE mineralization, was derived from the mantle plume, and was generated by large-scale partial melting of the plume and mantle materials surrounding the plume. These premises concern large igneous province (LIP) in general. Such factors that affect the enrichment of PGE such as supply of sulfur and silicate components due to crust contamination and also local tectonic setting would be more important for formation of PGE ore deposit,

Noril'sk ore deposit: The magma which genarated the deposit is considered to have been picritic to basaltic, PGE-enriched and sulfur-undersaturated. The magma was contaminated by crustal material, which caused the separation of the immiscible sulfide melt from the silicate magma. The immiscible sulfide melt dissolved much PGE reacting with a large amount of silicate magmas in the center of magmatic activity. These events are considered to be the origin of the Noril'sk ore deposit. From the above, three points can be listed as the requirements of the Noril'sk type ore deposit generation: (1) generation of sulfur-undersaturated magma and the ascending to a shallow crustal level, (2) generation of immiscible sulfide melt due to crustal contamination, and (3) reaction of the immiscible sulfide melt with a large quantity of silicate magma.

Furthermore, As the key factors of the exploration that satisfy the above requirements, the

followings can be listed: (1) existence of "Low-Ti" type and PGE-rich magma as lavas or intrusions, (2) existence of magmas depleted in PGE and contaminated by crustal matrials as lavas or intrusions, (3) being center of volcanic activity where crustal suture has developed and large quantity of silicate magmas ascended from the mantle, and (4) existence of high temperature picrite magma which apt to cause contamination of crustal materials as lavas or intrusions.

Paraná basin: it is one of the continental inland basins formed in the western part of the Gondwana paleo-continent. The lithosphere of the basin is thinner inferred by analysis of tidal gravity anomaly and the mantle plume is located more shallowly than those of cratons and orogenic belts. Paraná basin deposited from the late Ordovician to the late Cretaceous. The sequences are divided into the Rio Ivai, Paraná, Gondwana I, Gondwana II, Gondwana III, and Bauru Supersequences. The Gondwana I supersequence was formed immediately after the Hercynian orogeny while the Gondwana III supersequence is a thick flood basalt lava pile. The sedimentary sequences deposited more thickly along Paraná River from the western part of Paraná province to the southwestern part of São Paulo province.

It is considered that, when a mantle plume enters into the lithosphere of the intracratonic basin, the lithosphere shrinks instantly, subsides by the weight of the plume, and the sedimentation of the basin starts. The attenuation factor (e) of lithosphere has been calculated from the analysis of drilling data etc. High e zones are observed along the Paraná River in the NE-SW direction, extending from the western part to the northwestern part of the Paraná province, then to the southwestern part of San Paulo province. In these areas, intrusions of numerous dolerite sills and dikes, thick basalt lava pile, and normal sediment deposits are observed. Gravity anomaly becomes high due to the thinner lithosphere of intracratonic basin such as in the Midcontinet rift in the United States. In Paraná basin, high residual gravity anomaly is often observed in high e zones such as that along the Paraná River.

Tectonics of the Paraná basin: Relationships between regional stress fields and ore deposits were examined about the Noril'skore deposit, Duluth ore deposit and the Paraná basin. Conjugate shear fractures form diagonal secondary shear fractures like echelon inside them as a lateral movement progresses (Cymoid Loop) and a shear fracture of conjugate shear fractures is developed to a rift while the other is developed to a transformed fault. In the Duluth ore deposit, it is considered that the Duluth complex intruded into the tensional fracture formed by the lateral movement of two parallel transform faults, and the Ni- Cu- PGE ore deposit was formed there based on the anomalies of gravity and airborne magnetic anomalies. From the above, The principal maximum compressive stress axis ( $\sigma_3$ ) the NW-SE direction in the regional stress field.

The Noril'sk ore deposit is controlled by the Noril'sk-Kharayelakh dextral strike-slip shear

fault in the NNE-SSW direction and the Kayerkansky-Pyasinsky anticline in the NNW-SSE direction. Since the NNW-SSE direction coincides with that of Gydansk-Omsk rift, it is presumed to be the direction of  $\sigma_1$ . From the direction of  $\sigma_1$ , the  $\sigma_3$  is presumed to show the ENE-WSW direction perpendicular to the Kayerkansky-Pyasinsky anticline. The Talnakh ore deposit of the west of the fault in the shape of a triangle stretching to the northwest is considered to have been formed in the tensional fissure zone. The Noril'sk ore deposit are located at the crossing of both NNE-SSW direction and NNW-SSE direction and, at the same time, they are located at the thickest part of the Nadezhinsky basalt lava unit, i.e. at the volcano-center.

A series of faults and fractures in the Paraná basin can be interpreted as a regional stress field in the rift zone. The high \xi zone, the high gravity anomaly zone, and the thick doleritic sills and dikes are found in the NE-SW direction along the Paraná River from the western part of the Paraná province to the southwestern part of the San Paulo province. These events suggest that the zone was a rift. Assuming that the rift has the NE-SW direction, the stress axis in the NE-SW direction will be the  $\sigma_1$  and the NW-SE direction perpendicular to the rift will be the  $\sigma_3$  and a dextral transform fault. The zone where many fractures such as Ponta Grossa arch, Abreu- Mourao fault, and Rio Piquiri fault concentrate, is the most noteworthy among the NW-SE direction shear fractures. The zone is a tensional fracture zone formed by the lateral movement and it is estimated that a large quantity of sills and dikes intruded in the zone. The tensional fracture zone in the western part of Paraná province is formed at the intersection between the NE-SW rift and the NW-SE transform fault and the tensional fracture zone in Ponta Grossa arch at the intersection between the ENE-WSW shear fracture and the NW-SE transform fault. It is proposed that they are the first priority exploration targets of Ni-Cu-PGE ore deposit. Then, The ENE-WSW trending fractures also predominate in the Paraná basin. fractures divide the cratons of the basement and the Brasilian- Pan African orogenic belts. fracture directions intersect with the  $\sigma_1$  axis (NE-SW) at an angle of about 30 degrees and be sinistral strike-slip shear fractures. They are not accompanied with doleritic sills and dikes.

### 1-2 Analysis of Satellite Images

Digital mosaic images of JERS-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data were read and analyzed for area where crosses the central part of Paraná basin from east to west from the viewpoint of geological structures. The survey area covers about 500,000 km² where corresponds to JERS-1/SAR data in 131 scenes. Most of the survey area crossing Paraná basin from east to west is extensively covered by flood basalt that erupted from the Jurassic to the Cretaceous. In the northeast part of the area, sedimentary rocks of the Palaeozoic and granitic rocks of the basement are distributed. To read and analyze the geological structure, lineaments

(including faults) and circular structures were extracted.

In Ponta Grossa Arch where is situated at the northeast part of the survey area, sedimentary rocks of the Palaeozoic and granitic rocks of the basement are distributed, and also exist a lot of dolerite dikes, which are considered to be the feeder of the flood basalt. The dikes extend as long as maximum 80 kilometers in NW-SE direction. They are identified clearly as lineaments on the interpretation images. It is considered to be the reason why dikes in sedimentary rocks which are relatively weak in resistance to erosion form a continuously ridging topographical feature. However, no dike has been identified in the basement. It is considered to be the reason why dikes do not form a ridge as the dikes and granite are not much different in erosion resistance. In regard to flood basalt distribution, large lineament groups were identified in the NE-SW direction in the central part of the area. It should be noted that these lineament groups are not indicated in existing geologic maps. The lineament density in the flood basalt distribution area is extremely low compared with the sedimentary rock area. In particular, in the low land around Paraná River in the survey area, a horst and graben structure in NE-SW in the basement was estimated through airborne magnetic survey and gravity prospecting. However, no lineament corresponding to this has been identified on SAR images. This may show that the basement structure has not given significant structural influence on the distribution of flood basalt, and no large structural movement has taken place in this area since the eruption of flood basalt.

As to circular structure, alkaline composite rock bodies existing in Lages area are clearly extracted as corresponding to circular structure on geologic map definitely.

### 1-3 Geological Survey

The current survey revealed that the Paraná basin flood basalt was classified into three types: a "Low-Ti" type (Gramado and Esmeralda), a transitional type (Paranapaneme-Ribeira), and a "High-Ti" type (Pitanga and Urubicí). The three types of lavas have the following geochemical features.

(1) Judging from the Th, Ta, Y, and Zr content and the Nd isotopic ratio, the Esmeralda of "Low-Ti" type is the least undifferentiated. (2) The Gramado and Esmeralda of "Low-Ti" type contain a relatively large quantity of crustal enriched elements such as Th, U, and Rb. This tendency is particularly conspicuous in Gramado. This was also confirmed from the isotopes of strontium and neodymium. (3) The magmas of "High-Ti" type and "Intermediate-Ti" type may have been little affected by the upper continental crustal material, originated from the mantle, and probably erupted directly to the surface of the earth. (4) Each type of magma was probably generated by a difference in degree of partial melting. Among these, the magma of "Low-Ti" type has the largest degree of partial melting and may have assimilated the upper

continental crustal material in varying degree. (5) The average content of Pt of the Paranapanema-Ribeira flood basht of "Intermediate-Ti" type is 9.7 ppb and that of Pd is 15.5 ppb. The "Intermediate-Ti" type shows the highest Pt and Pd contents of all the types. These content values are higher than those of the lava richest in PGE of the Noril'sk ore deposit. The magma of "Low-Ti" type (Gramado and Esmeralda) is the second highest in content of Pt and Pd. For the Gramado magma, which was greatly affected by the crustal contamination, some samples are depleted of PGE and others are not depleted of them. On the other hand, the Pitanga magma of "High-Ti" type is very low in content of Pt and Pd. The study of the chemical composition of lava revealed that magma having a high content of PGE which may generate an orthomagmatic sulfide ore deposit of Noril'sk type would exist in the Paraná basin area.

The analysis of major components and trace elements of the intrusive rock showed the wide variety of sill composition (picritic acitic sill) in the Lomba Grande area. On the other hand, it was clarified that the variety of composition of the Ponta Grossa Arch sills and dikes is limited and all of them are basaltic. Like the lava, the former is richer in Th, U, and Rb than the latter. This agrees with the features of the magma of "Low-Ti" type shown by the lava. The 130m thick large-scale sill (basaltic and exists in the northeastern part and eastern part of the Lomba Grande area shows a relatively high content of Pt and Pd. In particular, some samples that contain more than 20 ppb of Pt were found in the sill of the northeastern part. In contrast to this, the picritic basaltic and and esitic dacitic sills that exist in the central part of the Lomba Grande area are depleted of Pt and Pd. In particular, the andesitic - dacitic sill contains little Pt and Pd. The content of Pt and Pd of the sills and dikes in Ponta Grossa Arch varies. Some of them contain more than 20 ppb of Pd, but others are depleted of Pd.

As described above, the geochemical study of the lava and intrusive rock conducted in fiscal 2001 clarified that magma (Paranapanema-Ribeira etc.) with a high content of PGE that may generate an orthomagmatic sulfide ore deposit of Noril'sk type exists in the Paraná basin area. The crustal contamination and the depletion of PGE were found in some samples of the Gramado of "Low-Ti" type. Also, although the crustal contamination is not clear, the depletion of PGE was recognized in some dikes and sills of Ponta Grossa Arch.

The EPMA revealed that sills and dikes of the Ponta Grossa Arch and the northeastern part of the Lomba Grande area contain a trace of chalcopyrite. In particular, we detected a trace of sphalerite and a cobalt arsenic mineral containing nickel from sills and dikes of Ponta Grossa Arch, which are interesting.

### Chapter 2: Suggestion for Phase II Survey

In Phase I survey, we carried out a survey mainly in the central part of the flood basht distribution area. Analyses of lava and intrusive rocks of flood basht based on Phase I survey clarified geochemical features of the magmas. We also examined what kind of magma and geological conditions would cause the occurrence of a Ni-Cu-PGE ore deposit, taking the Noril'sk ore deposit and Duluth ore deposit as an example.

We are planning to conduct Phase II survey of the entire survey area, following Phase I survey. We will carry out a geological survey and collect analysis samples, particularly in the northern and southern parts of the survey area where enough analysis samples have not been obtained yet. The samples of lava and intrusive rock will be obtained from the ground surface and coal exploration drilling. The contents of analysis items and elements will be almost the same in order to maintain consistency with Phase I survey.

MINEROPAR in the Paraná province and CPRM in Rio Grande do Sul have conducted geochemical prospecting of stream sediment. The analyzed values of both prospectings reflect the own chemical composition of flood basalt relatively well. A geochemical prospection of stream sediment may be effective for an area where there is little outcrop of flood basalt sequences and will be conducted as a supplementary means to an outcrop survey as appropriate.

The survey of the geology and geological structure of the Paraná basin and basement rock revealed that the activity of flood basalt is controlled by a regional stress field. We will continue the survey of the geological structure of basin sediment and basement rock to determine the eruption sites of flood basalt where the occurrence of the ore deposit is expected.

We will also continue to analyze the SAR and TM images obtained through JERS-1 in order to clarify the geology and geological structure of the Paraná basin.

We will keep appealing to organizations concerned to obtain the data on drilling cores and a geophysical prospecting possessed by PETROBRAS.

We will bring together the Phase I and II survey results to make an analysis in a comprehensive manner, and eventually examine the potential for the occurrence of the Ni-Cu-PGE ore deposit in the Paraná basin, present the guidelines for the exploration, and extract promising areas for the exploration.

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