

3.2.1 Preparation of Sample

(1) Main Coal Beds

Six samples (PH3, N1-3, N3-4, N3-6, N5-1, N5-13) were sent to the laboratory of Lanna Lignite Company at Li and crushed to smaller than one inches. The three quarters of each sample were used for float-sink test at Lanna's laboratory and the remains were sent to Mae Moh's laboratory of EGAT for various quality analyses.

(2) Other Coal Beds

Other coal samples from the boreholes were sent EGAT for various quality analyses except float-sink test.

3.2.2 Analysis and Tests

(1) Main Coal Beds

After screening with the mesh of 10mm and 0.5mm, products of 0.5-10mm and +10mm were used for float-sink test. Separation density used in the test was 1.35, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60 and 1.80, taking account of the test result of bulk sample.

Each portion separated by density and products of under 0.5 mm were analyzed on total sulfur content at Lanna's laboratory and then, 25g each of them were sent to EGAT's laboratory for coal quality analyses. Analytical items were proximate analysis, calorific value, ultimate analysis, ash analysis, hardgrove grindability index (HGI) and forms of sulfur.

The results of float-sink test with ash and total sulfur contents conducted in Lanna's laboratory were attached in Appendix 6. A part of the results of coal analysis and tests conducted in EGAT's laboratory were shown on Table 3-3.

(2) Other Coal Beds

The following analyses were conducted by EGAT; proximate analysis, calorific value, ultimate analysis, ash analysis, forms of sulfur and specific gravity.

The result is shown on table 3-4.

3.3 Coal Quality

The quality of Ngao coal is variable place by place. There are two main causes; (1) Peat deposition might be occurred in each sub-basin separately. (2) Those peat swamps were presumed as “planar peat” (Cecil, et al, 1985).

Coal analytical data from twenty-one (21) boreholes are available for this study, although 113 boreholes including five holes done during this exploration period have been conducted in Ngao Coal basin. The numbers of data (21 holes) is sparse for the area as large as 13km² where coal zones exists within the depth shallower than 250m from the ground surface. A preconception about Ngao coal as very high sulfur contents was so intense. There was no chemical analysis data on the form of sulfur in Ngao basin.

The previous coal analysis data and the analysis result this time are shown in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4 respectively. Iso-value map on ash content, calorific value and total sulfur content on dry basis are illustrated in Figure 3-3 to Figure 3-5.

Coal quality in Ngao area is outlined based on the coal analysis data taken from 21 boreholes in this chapter. The Ngao coal is discussed later in detail in the quality upgrade technology of Chapter 4.

As mentioned before, two coal zones (Zone I and Zone II) are recognized in Ngao area. There is not much difference in the proximate analysis between Zone I and Zone II as shown in Table 3-5. The following descriptions are about Zone I, because the mining plan was carried out on Zone I.

Table 3-3 Previous data on Coal Quality

	From	To	Thickness (m)	Moisture (ar) %	Ash (ar) %	V.M. (ar) %	F.C. (ar) %	H.V. (ar) kcal/kg	S (ar) %	SG		From	To	Thickness (m)	Moisture (ar) %	Ash (ar) %	V.M. (ar) %	F.C. (ar) %	H.V. (ar) kcal/kg	S (ar) %	SG*
NG 16/40	131.55	132.55	1.00	27.61	28.12	29.01	15.26	2,473	5.29	1.476	LN 1/21	3.71	4.36	0.65	36.80	25.20	25.60	12.40	2,035	2.59	1.41
	132.55	133.55	1.00	25.98	28.21	31.08	14.73	2,499	6.29	1.452		5.18	5.60	0.42	34.90	24.40	27.10	13.60	2,428	2.51	1.40
	133.55	134.55	1.00	26.97	23.88	32.49	16.66	2,445	7.99	1.534		9.57	10.10	0.53	34.20	33.20	24.00	8.60	1,721	1.31	1.52
	134.55	136.00	1.45	23.86	40.21	31.80	4.13	2,077	6.57	1.522		10.69	10.98	0.29	40.60	19.70	25.10	14.60	2,427	2.60	1.34
	136.00	136.80	0.80	26.64	35.12	28.29	9.95	1,830	7.02	1.554		11.88	13.18	1.30	33.40	27.00	25.20	14.40	2,214	3.54	1.44
	136.80	137.80	1.00	31.04	23.35	30.10	15.51	2,685	5.39	1.466		15.04	15.59	0.55	29.60	29.80	28.40	12.20	2,337	2.49	1.48
	137.80	138.40	0.60	27.57	30.97	33.16	8.30	2,491	5.72	1.302		16.09	16.24	0.15	29.60	39.00	22.70	8.70	1,596	1.47	1.60
	138.40	139.65	0.90	31.79	22.74	29.29	16.18	2,772	4.29	1.303		17.59	19.09	1.50	33.10	34.60	24.00	8.30	1,961	1.99	1.54
	141.15	141.95	0.80	29.48	26.27	31.88	12.37	2,270	6.54	1.301		36.97	37.50	0.53	35.50	31.10	23.30	10.20	1,881	1.31	1.49
	145.00	146.00	1.00	28.89	30.96	27.84	12.31	2,211	5.04	1.367		37.50	38.00	0.50	35.10	31.30	25.10	8.50	1,885	1.51	1.49
	146.00	146.30	0.30	26.56	39.68	25.42	8.34	1,553	5.06	1.476		38.00	38.50	0.50	44.10	17.00	26.30	12.60	2,114	2.84	1.31
	147.35	147.65	0.30	31.51	26.51	28.58	13.40	2,462	4.80	1.321		38.50	39.00	0.50	43.70	15.90	26.40	14.00	2,396	2.33	1.29
	148.05	148.40	0.35	31.59	22.67	29.87	15.87	2,525	5.12	1.278		39.00	39.50	0.50	42.10	14.30	27.30	15.80	2,651	2.55	1.27
	149.05	150.00	0.95	26.32	34.23	28.15	11.30	2,027	5.68	1.448		39.50	39.94	0.44	40.90	17.10	28.50	13.50	2,596	2.76	1.31
	150.40	150.80	0.40	26.83	34.64	28.28	10.25	2,118	5.24	1.485		41.00	41.50	0.50	36.90	29.70	25.60	7.80	2,033	1.55	1.47
	152.55	153.00	0.45	23.74	33.30	31.06	11.90	1,946	8.81	1.608		41.50	42.00	0.50	38.40	23.70	27.00	10.90	2,624	1.97	1.39
	211.35	212.00	0.65	33.43	24.06	29.33	13.18	2,627	4.44	1.402		42.00	42.50	0.50	38.00	26.40	26.20	9.40	2,047	1.89	1.43
	213.40	213.85	0.45	27.40	33.99	28.15	10.46	2,008	5.48	1.504		42.50	43.00	0.50	41.90	18.40	27.10	12.60	2,268	3.00	1.32
	216.90	217.20	0.30	20.33	38.76	31.95	8.96	1,577	8.11	1.747		43.00	43.50	0.50	41.00	25.30	25.70	8.00	1,924	1.76	1.42
	217.30	217.74	0.44	18.37	45.82	33.17	2.64	1,576	8.35	1.702		43.50	44.00	0.50	43.40	22.70	23.30	10.60	2,007	1.46	1.38
218.65	218.95	0.30	27.02	33.24	30.81	8.93	1,952	5.51	1.529	44.00	44.58	0.58	38.60	27.90	25.30	8.20	2,020	1.86	1.45		
220.55	220.95	0.40	26.94	31.54	32.92	8.60	1,975	6.40	1.459	45.42	45.67	0.25	37.50	28.60	24.60	9.30	2,071	1.43	1.46		
222.27	222.60	0.33	25.54	32.63	31.46	10.37	2,198	4.74	1.456	46.00	46.75	0.75	37.50	30.90	27.50	4.10	1,927	1.84	1.49		
225.70	226.00	0.30	21.32	43.06	31.96	3.66	1,734	7.39	1.611	47.00	47.52	0.52	43.60	20.50	25.00	10.90	2,313	1.86	1.35		
236.76	237.30	0.54	20.70	41.34	29.84	8.12	1,815	4.09	1.565	47.67	48.00	0.33	44.60	18.20	23.60	13.90	2,319	1.77	1.32		
239.17	240.17	1.00	20.81	33.38	31.98	13.83	2,212	4.34	1.511	48.00	48.50	0.50	44.70	17.10	25.50	12.70	2,346	2.57	1.31		
240.17	241.05	0.88	32.10	17.14	31.00	19.76	3,207	2.97	1.336	48.50	49.15	0.65	43.90	24.00	24.70	11.00	2,348	2.43	1.40		
242.60	243.60	1.00	28.60	27.96	28.66	14.78	2,485	2.94	1.447	49.55	50.15	0.60	44.20	19.60	25.30	10.90	2,267	2.00	1.34		
243.60	243.97	0.37	24.00	36.96	28.24	10.80	2,057	6.18	1.571	50.80	51.18	0.38	43.60	18.70	25.10	12.60	2,221	1.86	1.33		
244.00	245.00	1.00	22.23	42.88	27.52	7.37	1,763	4.08	1.620	51.56	52.00	0.44	34.40	35.90	22.20	7.50	1,425	2.48	1.56		
245.00	246.00	1.00	22.85	34.75	29.99	12.41	2,155	5.53	1.551	56.06	57.00	0.94	37.60	27.20	25.20	10.00	2,064	1.16	1.44		
246.00	247.00	1.00	28.86	26.99	29.04	15.11	2,784	2.60	1.437	57.00	57.29	0.29	34.00	33.40	23.30	9.30	1,683	1.59	1.52		
247.00	248.00	1.00	31.48	19.25	29.67	19.60	3,118	2.41	1.363	57.60	58.02	0.42	32.80	35.00	23.90	8.30	1,611	2.40	1.54		
248.00	248.30	0.30	22.59	52.87	18.96	5.58	1,180	1.36	1.723	58.39	58.93	0.54	34.80	35.60	23.30	6.30	1,568	1.66	1.55		
248.58	249.58	1.00	23.97	37.59	28.27	10.17	1,886	5.21	1.565	60.03	60.40	0.37	35.60	25.40	26.50	12.50	2,084	1.94	1.42		
249.58	249.95	0.37	26.04	27.93	31.66	14.37	2,632	4.46	1.419	62.20	62.75	0.55	43.60	19.30	24.60	12.50	2,185	2.43	1.34		
251.00	252.00	1.00	22.05	42.25	26.48	9.22	1,878	2.97	1.630	63.83	64.01	0.18	39.60	25.60	28.00	6.80	2,148	2.29	1.42		
253.86	254.26	0.40	21.19	48.19	23.29	7.33	1,606	2.29	1.719	66.42	67.27	0.85	36.40	30.20	26.00	7.40	1,973	1.35	1.48		
254.47	255.50	1.03	24.74	29.78	31.62	13.86	2,494	3.93	1.492	68.18	68.59	0.41	40.00	23.80	23.50	12.70	2,158	1.09	1.40		
256.19	257.19	1.00	21.44	38.19	30.42	9.95	1,967	5.24	1.561	68.50	70.03	1.53	38.30	25.10	26.30	10.30	1,977	1.48	1.41		
258.95	259.76	0.81	26.18	28.92	31.11	13.79	2,390	5.11	1.471	70.03	70.26	0.23	36.20	25.00	24.90	13.90	2,278	1.78	1.41		
260.00	260.75	0.75	22.37	43.09	26.92	7.62	1,846	3.86	1.682	75.00	76.68	1.68	32.50	31.60	23.30	12.60	2,106	2.00	1.50		
261.07	262.58	1.51	24.83	32.92	29.27	12.98	1,330	5.01	1.614	52.78	53.26	0.48	32.80	27.40	27.60	12.20	2,080	1.82	1.44		
327.08	328.08	1.00	22.32	37.27	30.25	10.16	2,303	4.01	1.567	56.53	56.98	0.45	27.60	27.50	28.60	16.30	2,310	6.14	1.44		
328.08	329.08	1.00	21.22	36.29	31.07	11.42	2,393	4.71	1.531	68.76	69.20	0.44	30.00	35.60	24.01	10.30	1,945	1.70	1.55		
329.08	329.73	0.65	20.04	50.14	22.74	7.08	1,464	3.11	1.710	3.71	4.66	0.95	30.80	28.60	28.00	12.60	2,316	1.62	1.46		
179.75	180.15	0.40	9.62	41.29	34.33	14.76	2,502	11.45	1.921	4.76	5.06	0.30	30.30	23.40	31.90	14.40	2,580	4.08	1.39		
180.15	181.15	1.00	12.98	50.98	35.51	0.53	2,105	8.11	1.740	5.63	6.29	0.66	31.70	26.80	30.50	11.00	2,497	2.20	1.44		
181.15	181.55	0.40	14.47	26.60	35.97	22.96	3,358	4.84	1.516	6.93	7.99	1.06	40.20	30.90	23.30	5.60	1,548	2.37	1.49		
182.85	183.15	0.30	10.48	49.71	31.89	7.92	2,294	5.02	1.752	8.14	8.51	0.37	30.30	28.30	28.20	13.20	2,301	2.65	1.46		
184.50	185.00	0.50	16.71	40.88	32.64	9.77	2,384	6.60	1.558	10.75	11.05	0.30	31.50	30.00	27.70	10.80	2,039	1.58	1.48		
185.90	186.35	0.45	16.70	36.59	33.93	12.78	2,296	8.76	1.539	12.41	12.71	0.30	28.20	36.80	27.80	7.20	1,826	1.79	1.57		
186.60	187.15	0.55	27.98	22.39	32.27	17.36	2,887	6.56	1.382	24.02	24.62	0.60	30.00	28.00	30.10	11.90	2,410	1.86	1.45		
187.40	188.00	0.60	26.18	26.98	32.02	14.82	2,621	6.23	1.415	46.11	48.23	2.12	32.70	24.30	29.50	13.50	2,446	3.13	1.40		

Table 3-5 Proximate analysis of Zone I and Zone II (ar base)

Zone I	Moisture	Ash	V.M.	F.C.	H.V.	S
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(kcal/kg)	(%)
NG 3/40	22.90	38.05	32.17	6.88	1,814	6.90
NG 5/40	24.65	34.08	29.02	12.25	2,140	4.03
NG 10/40	20.49	34.03	32.95	12.53	2,506	7.23
NG 12/40	18.10	42.93	27.21	11.76	2,175	4.00
NG 16/40	27.80	30.10	29.96	12.14	2,300	5.96
NGG 1/40	26.83	26.12	31.86	15.19	2,467	5.67
NGG 2/40	26.17	28.64	32.99	12.20	2,158	7.48
NGG 3/40	27.20	29.41	29.95	13.44	2,435	3.99
NGG 4/40	24.91	28.19	32.63	14.27	2,656	5.81
LN1/21	33.75	11.36	25.16	11.36	2,090	2.46
LN3/21	39.44	25.32	25.33	10.06	2,088	1.92
LN11/21	30.19	30.20	26.71	12.87	2,108	3.16
LN26/21	32.84	29.13	27.74	10.28	2,134	2.16
LN27/21	19.92	52.64	20.57	6.87	1,243	3.46
LN28/21	33.69	25.52	27.88	12.92	2,495	2.77
NG3/31	12.45	51.35	26.51	9.69	1,968	3.86
NG7/31	17.52	38.64	30.79	13.06	2,225	5.63
NG9/31	22.89	39.78	27.46	9.88	2,157	3.12
NGJ1/43	31.82	25.32	27.31	15.54	2,705	5.72
NGJ3/43	26.21	37.89	24.54	11.37	2,058	5.02
NGJ5/43	31.04	33.41	22.79	12.77	2,085	2.60
Average	26.23	32.96	28.17	11.78	2,191	4.43

Zone II	Moisture	Ash	V.M.	F.C.	H.V.	S
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(kcal/kg)	(%)
NG 5/40	21.32	40.31	28.57	9.80	2,114	4.03
NGG 1/40	24.30	29.92	31.69	14.09	2,505	4.36
NGG 2/40	25.42	30.37	33.39	10.82	2,549	6.19
NGG 3/40	22.99	31.25	32.45	13.31	2,659	4.90
NGG 4/40	19.50	36.92	31.90	11.68	2,214	6.18
LN26/21	31.72	25.30	30.46	12.52	2,470	3.51
NG 3/31	14.54	42.09	29.16	14.21	2,585	4.13
NG 7/31	15.16	49.36	26.46	9.02	1,848	4.34
NG 9/31	17.75	42.91	26.30	13.04	2,101	3.76
NGJ3/43	24.37	39.07	33.90	2.66	2,207	4.37
NGJ5/43	31.44	31.71	23.90	12.95	2,256	4.29
Average	22.59	36.29	29.83	11.28	2,319	4.55

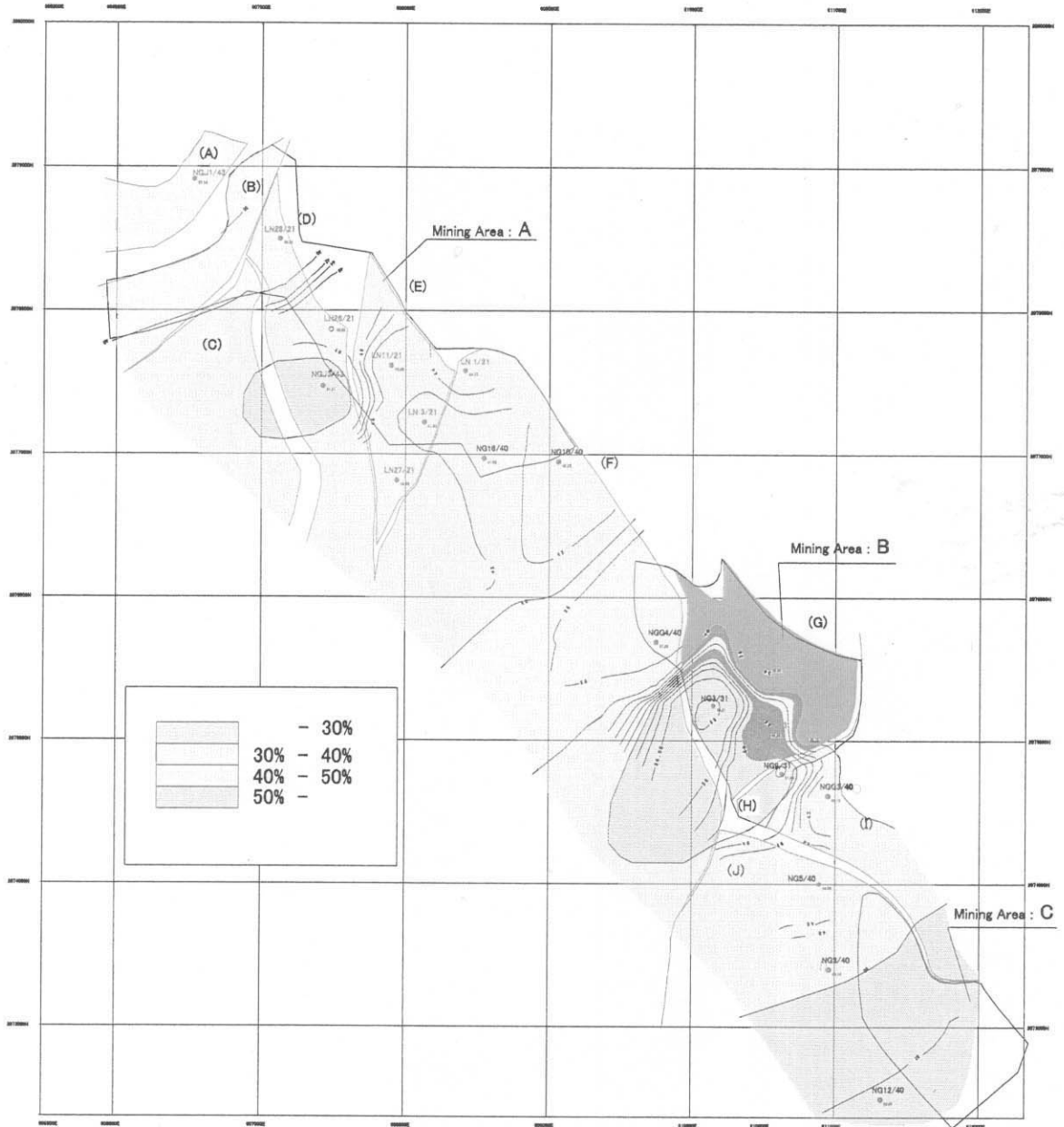


Figure3-3 Iso-value Contour Map on Ash Content(% , dry)

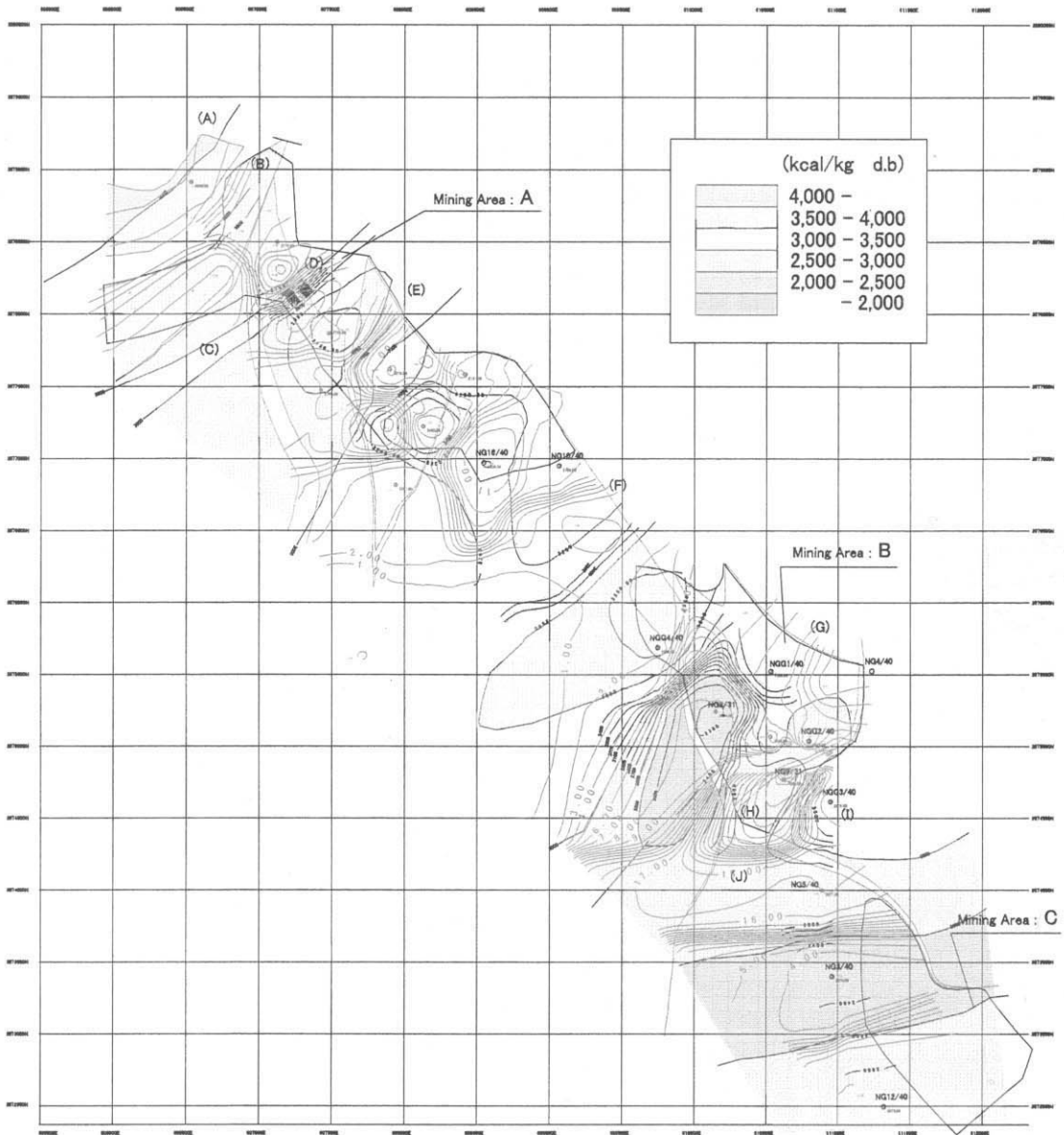


Figure3-4 Iso-value Contour Map on Heating Value(kcal/kg , dry)

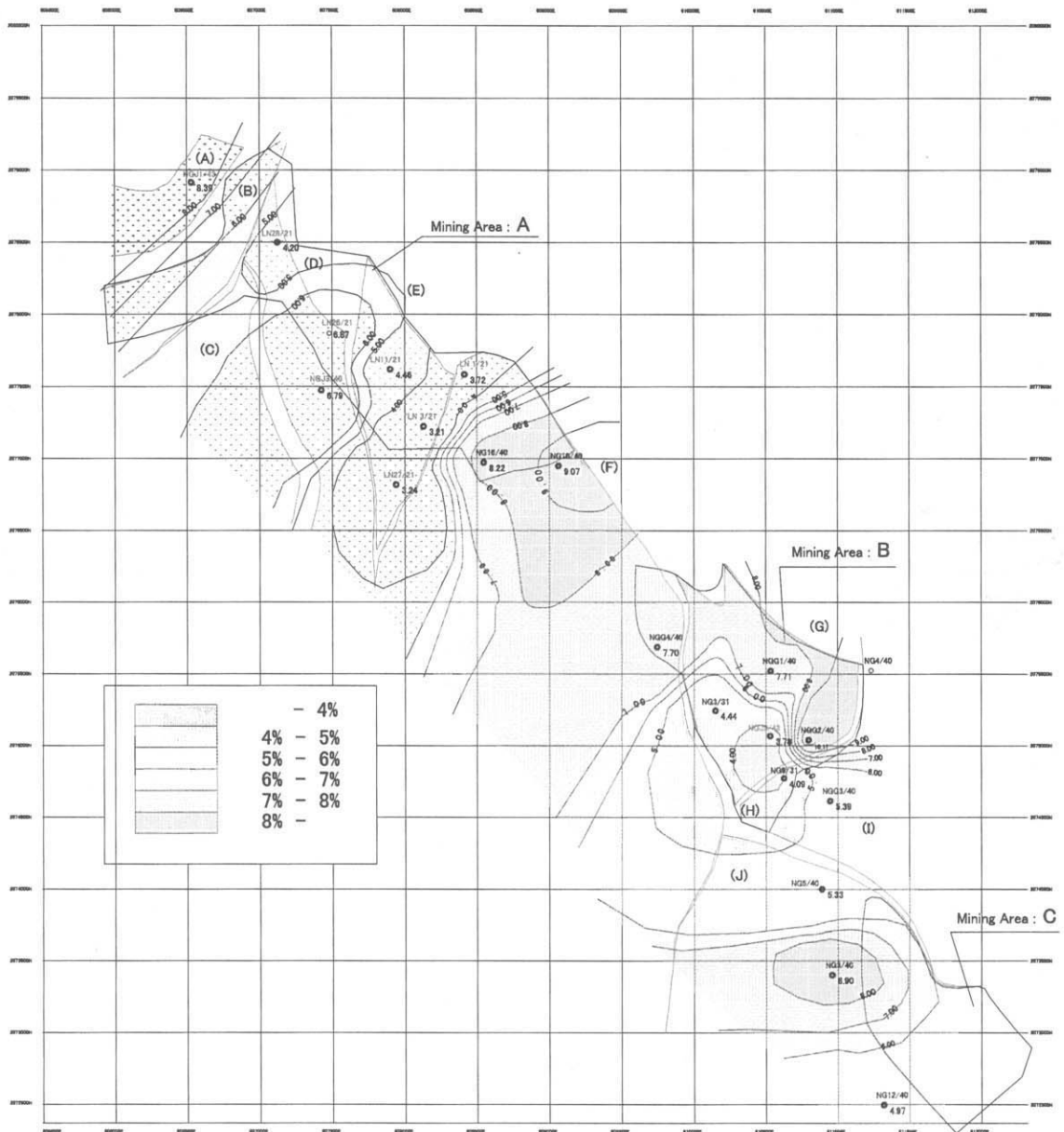


Figure3-5 Iso-Value Contour Map on Total Sulphur Content(% , dry)

3.3.1 Moisture

The moisture content on as received basis (total moisture) is 20% to 34% and its average is 30%. The moisture content on air-dried basis (inherent moisture) is reported about 20%, two thirds of the total moisture. This means that one thirds of the total moisture of Ngao coal is surface moisture. Removing surface moisture is one of the effective quality upgrade technologies.

3.3.2 Ash

According to the iso-value contour map of ash on dry basis (Figure 3-3), the weighed average of ash content in the whole Ngao area is calculated as 44.8%. This is converted into 31.4% on as received basis and 35.4% on air-dried basis.

High ash value is due to the presence of many non-coal partings (shale to carbonaceous shale) in the sampling section. The bulk sample section for quality upgrading is without any visible partings as shown in Figure 2-3, however its ash content on air-dried basis is 21%. It is probably due to invisible mineral matter (Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , etc)

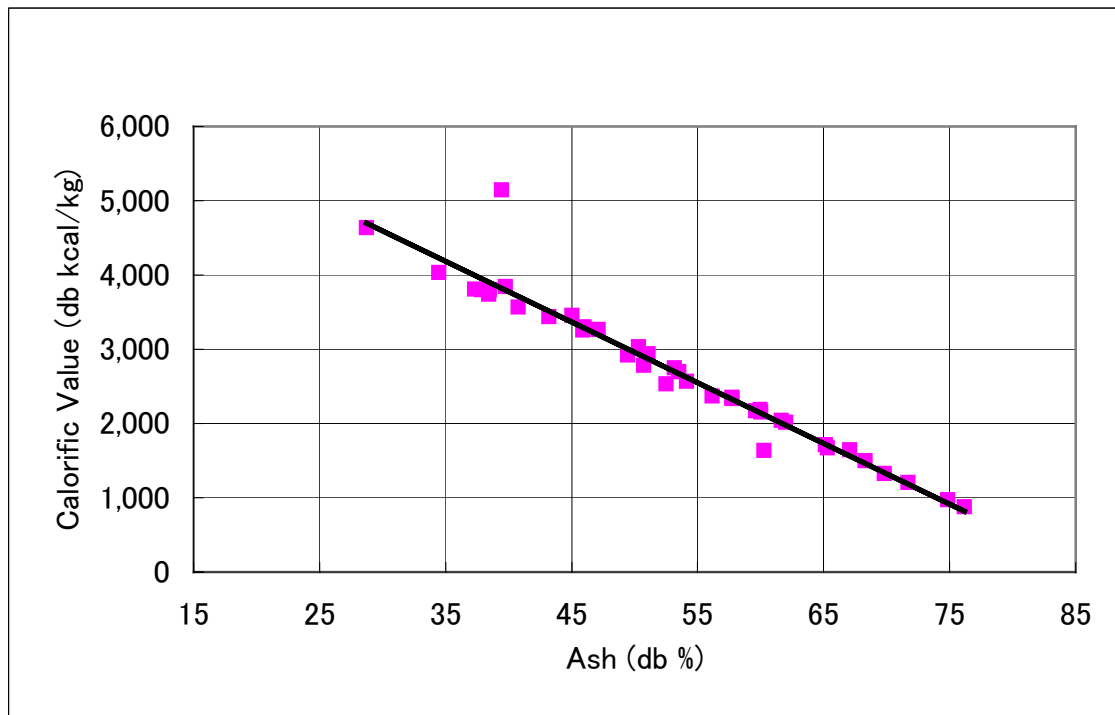
3.3.3 Volatile Matter

The average volatile matter content is about 28% on as received basis. It is converted into 38% on dry basis. Fuel ratio, which is given by dividing fixed carbon by volatile matter, is 0.44 in a similar range of that in the Lampang coalmine

3.3.4 Calorific Value

According to the iso-value contour map of calorific value on dry basis (Figure 3-4), the weighed average of calorific value in the whole Ngao area is calculated as 3,039 kcal/kg. This is converted into 2,127 kcal/kg on as received basis. Low calorific value is the effect of higher content of ash. Calorific value is usually proportional to ash content. Figure 3-6 illustrates the relationship between calorific and ash content of the coal analysis results in this exploration.

Figure 3-6 Calorific Value vs Ash Relationship



3.3.5 Total Sulfur

Figure 3-5 shows the iso-value contour map on total sulfur contents on dry basis. The weighed average of total sulfur in the whole Ngao area is 6.24 %. Total sulfur in the proposed mining Area-A tends to be rather low. Zone I in NGJ5/45 shows the sulphur content as low as about 2%. More quality data are required through drilling

in the future and then areas having low sulphur content will be selected for development.

The results of analysis done in this exploration have been given the average form of sulfur in Ngao area as follows,

Sulphide (Pyrite)	2.37%	(38%)
Sulphate	0.31%	(5%)
Organic	3.56%	(57%)
<hr/>		
Total	6.24%	(100%)

This means that a half of sulphur in Ngao presumes organic sulfur combined with hydrocarbon in texture of coal. It is confirmed that sulphide in Ngao coal exists equally as small particles as 0.01 to 0.02 mm in diameter, while large crystal pyrite as a common form of sulphide in high sulfur coal deposited under transgressional condition was not seen.

Very fine-grained pyrite in Phrae coal was explained in a JICA–DMR report in 1997, that this type of sulphide form is presumes to be a characteristics of Thai coal deposited in intermountain lacustrine basins.

3.3.6 Ultimate Analysis

In general, carbon content increases as degree of coalification becomes higher, while oxygen content changes in the opposite way. From this point of view, it is supposed that degree of coalification may be higher in the northern part than in the southern part. The degree of coalification in Ngao is same as one in Mae Moh.

3.3.7 Hardgrove Grindability Index (HGI)

HGI is reported to be 46 to over 100 and generally high enough for quality requirement of steaming coal (>40-45).

3.3.8 Analysis of Ash

Composition of ash are analyzed for the purpose of predicting the effect of ash during combustion in a cement kiln, particularly estimation of the combination ratio of coal and other cement raw materials. CaO, other alkaline and SO₃ are slightly high, however those do not effect on the cement kiln and are suited for cement industry.

According to the analysis result this year, the suitability indexes such as Fouling and Slugging for electric power plant were predicted. By Japanese standard on bituminous coal most of the results are over the quality requirement for combustion and then this coal is not suitable for boiler in electric power plants.

3.3.9 Coal Rank

The analytical result indicates that most coals in the study area are classified as Lignite A (ligA) or Lignite B (ligB) in coal rank according to the ASTM standard. Some of coals are ranked to subbituminous B to C (subB to subC).

4. Tests for Coal Preparation and Upgrading

4.1. Test for Coal Preparation

4.1.1. Screening and Float and Sink Test

As mentioned in the previous section, screening test and float and sink test were conducted on bulk sample and drill core sample, for the purpose of evaluating washability by conventional coal preparation method. Test result of bulk sample is illustrated in Christopher diagram of Figure 4-1.

The Christopher diagrams of core samples are shown in Appendix-7.

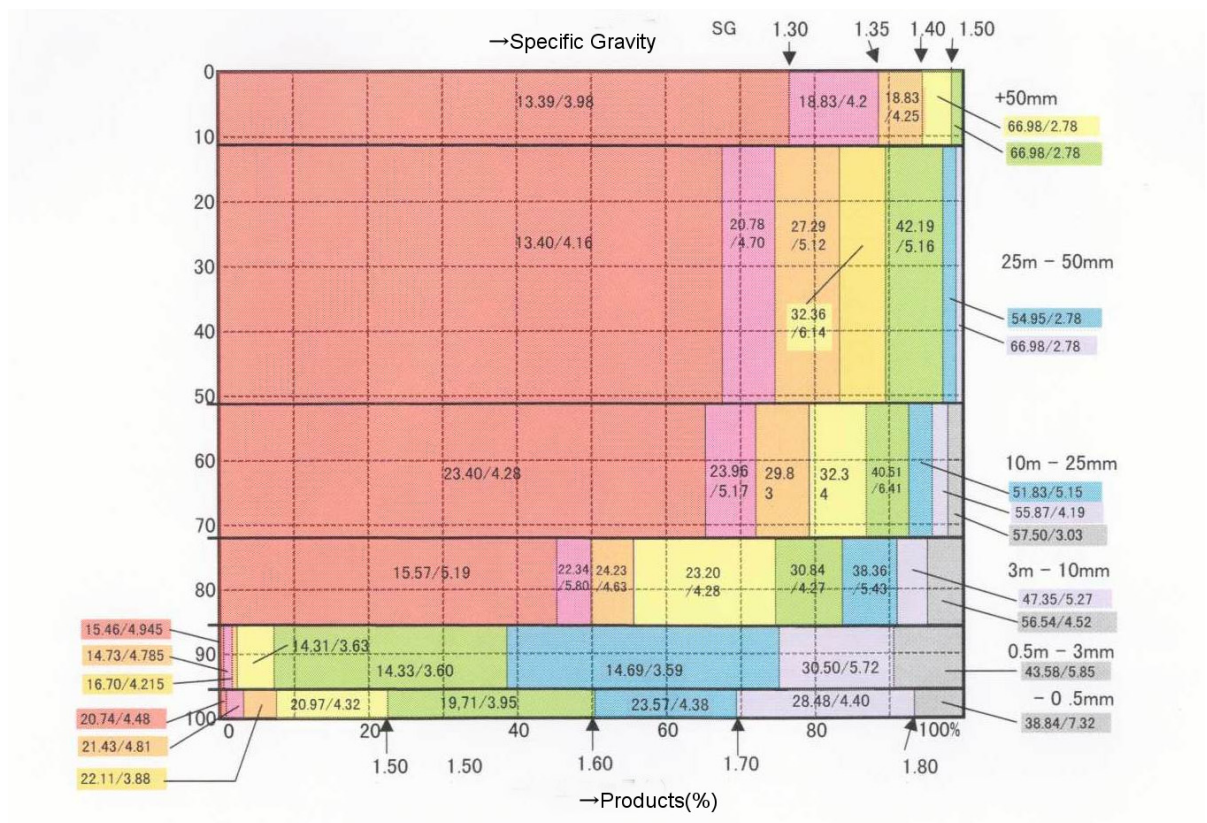


Figure 4-1 Christopher Diagram