

ABSTRACT
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The Formation of Large Chambers, With Examples from Laos and Other Countries

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Formation of large chambers is discussed on the basis of geological heterogeneity existing in stratigraphic successions. Given structural conditions lead to a given type of chamber. Most favourable are dipping strata forming a convex up anticline flank close to a syncline axis in a small wavelength folded section, with limestone underlain by different, erodible, rocks: this is the case of the Sarawak Chamber. Large chambers are in most of the cases sloping and this affects their stability in a good way. They are often, if not always, made up of coalescent voids, which have their own individual stability. The role of the individual voids is of paramount importance for the stability of the whole chamber. The chamber fill (boulders) also plays a role in sustaining chamber walls.