

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium “Gondwana to Asia” – T.R.K.Chetty, CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad-50 00 07, India (*E-mail:trkchetty@gmail.com*)

The annual convention of International Association of Gondwana Research (IAGR) 2013 and the 10<sup>th</sup> international symposium on Gondwana to Asia was organized at the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral resources (KIGAM), in Daejeon, during 1-4 October, 2013 with two days of technical sessions followed two days of field excursion, which was sponsored by KIGAM, IAGR, IGCP 592, IGCP 628, and Korea ICDP (International Continental Scientific Drilling Program). The event provided an important forum for young researchers to exchange of scientific ideas join with renowned geoscientists. The conference addressed a wide range of topics related to Gondwana and Asia with particular emphasis on the following:

- Earth system dynamics
- Geology and tectonic evolution of Gondwana break-up and the assembly of Asia
- Geology and tectonic evolution of the Korean peninsula and east Asia

The conference opened with an icebreaker party on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, where the delegates greeted one another and exchanged pleasantries. The technical sessions started on the next day morning with welcome address by M. Santosh, Secretary-General, IAGR; Inaugural address by Kyu Han Kim, the President of KIGAM; Presidential remarks by T.R.K.Chetty, President of IAGR, briefing about the birth and growth of IAGR, and thanks giving by Youn Soo Lee, organising secretary, KIGAM.

A keynote talk was also delivered by Prof. Harsh Gupta, illustrating the potential and development of Gas-hydrates emphasizing its importance to be a major energy source of India in the future. The Gondwana Research best paper award for the year 2012 was awarded to the paper entitled, “Gas hydrates in India: Potential and development” by Kalachand Sain and Harsh

K Gupta (*Gondwana Research, Volume 22, Issue 2, September 2012, Pages 645-657*). The award ceremony was conducted in the afternoon of the second day and carried citation and medal to the authors, together with certificates from Elsevier, the Publisher of GR. The IAGR also plays an important role in supporting and encouraging the younger generation of geoscientists by awarding the best student poster award. This year the best poster prizes went to three young researchers from China and one from Korea.

Delegates from all over the globe participated in the conference including from USA, Australia, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, China, Japan, India, Korea etc. The symposium featured keynote speakers, oral presentations besides poster presentations. There were 8 keynote talks, 32 oral presentations and 26 poster presentations. Totally, about 100 registered delegates attended the conference. There were 3 technical sessions covering two days. The first session was on Continental tectonics: structure and evolution that include the structure and evolution of the Southern Granulite Terrane, southern India; seismic images of Kutch sedimentary basin, western India; Consumption of Mozambique ocean, and the Flat subduction in Mexico, Alaska and Peru; Moho depth and seismic signatures of Paleo collision belt in Korean peninsula. Several other topics such as deep structure, volcanology, neotectonics, UHT metamorphism were also discussed. There were many interesting and debatable presentations dealing with the aspects of structure, petrology, geochemistry, isotopic signatures, geophysical constraints, and the assembly of Korean Peninsula and the tectonic linkage with north and south China blocks. The second session highlighted the importance of magmatic activity, economic geology and natural resources. The special focus was on

gold metallogeny and the Phanerozoic growth of Asia. In session 3, the topics like, stratigraphic analysis of Proterozoic intracratonic basins in southern India, recent geological researches in Jeju island, Korea, Tethys metasedimentary sequences in Himalayas, and geodynamic models of late Paleozoic COAB in Mongolia were discussed. There were many interesting posters dealing with several aspects of geosciences, but special mention must be made regarding the poster entitled, “Global Geoparks in Gondwana Terrains” by M. Yoshida, the emeritus president of IAGR. The abstract volume was edited by Sung Wŏn Kim and Seung-Ik park and published as the IAGR Conference series No. 14. The technical sessions ended with an Executive meeting of the IAGR council.

The post conference two day geological field excursion was attended by 20 delegates. The field work was carried out around 9 locations, mostly restricted to the Hongseong area, located at the southwestern part of the Korean Peninsula. Geologically, the region forms a part of suture zone that is tectonically correlated with the central orogenic belt of China in terms of convergent tectonics. Although outcrops are very few, the participants had the opportunity of examining eclogites, high pressure mafic granulites and serpentinite mélangé, Paleoproterozoic mylonites and some younger granitoids. The field work was well organized with an excellent Geological Field Excursion guide under the guidance and leadership of Sung Wŏn Kim, Seung-Ik Park and Sanghoon Kwon. All the delegates of IAGR -2013, after the conference, carried with them the sweet memories of Korean environment, culture, cuisines and the hospitality of the organizing committee. The organizers deserve all compliments for successfully organizing the event.