

NEWS AND NOTES

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA ELECTED HONORARY FELLOW OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Geological Society of America elects each year individuals residing outside North America who have distinguished themselves in geological investigation as its Honorary Fellows. This year this honour has been conferred on Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna, Editor of the Journal Geological Society of India.

IGCP 269 SEDBA PROJECT ON A GLOBAL DATABASE IN SEDIMENTARY PETROLOGY

It is very necessary to refer and evaluate global data for sedimentary rocks as these are important sources for energy, water and minerals. This involves design, structure, data storage, data update, and data distribution etc. A national working group for IGCP 269 Sedba has been made under the Chairmanship of Shri B. C. Poddar, Dy. Director-General, Geological Survey of India (Central Region), New Complex, Seminary Hills, Nagpur 440006 with ten members as follows: Prof. B. K. Sahu, IIT, Bombay (Convenor), Prof. H. B. Prakash, Roorkee Univ. (Co-Convenor), Prof. I. B. Singh, Lucknow Univ., Prof. S. K. Tandon, Delhi Univ., Prof. Supriya Sengupta, IIT, Kharagpur, Dr. T. N. Bagati, WIHG, Dehradun, Dr. N. H. Hashimi, NIO, Goa, Dr. B. Purkait, GSI, Calcutta and Dr. T. K. Mallik, GSI, Calcutta as members.

Indian Earth Scientists are requested to contribute to this program and they may contact their local member(s) and the Chairman for further details about this project.

TRAINING COURSES

(1)

PALAEOMAGNETISM

One of the significant advances in earth sciences in recent years is the confirmation of continental drift and development of the hypothesis of plate tectonics. Other major contributions relate to understanding of the generation of earth's magnetic field, palaeointensity, mode of formation of red beds, relative movements of blocks on a global scale, development of concept of tectonostratigraphic terranes, and magnetostratigraphy as a dating tool for geological correlations.

All these varied research activities require the development and use of extremely sensitive instruments. In order to provide an opportunity for young research workers to get acquainted with these techniques and interpretation of the rock and palaeomagnetic data, it is proposed to offer a short course under the auspices of the Geological Society of India for one week during December of this year. The

course will be held at the TIFR Palaeomagnetic Laboratory, Indian Institute of Technology Campus, Bombay. Laboratory exercises include the use of susceptibility and hysteresis apparatus (low and high temperature measurements), high-field hysteresis loop tracer, pulse field magnetometer, astatic magnetometer, mini spin magnetometer, step-wise and continuous thermal cleaning apparatus and A. C. cleaning apparatus.

Those who have the necessary preliminary knowledge and intend updating their information based on palaeomagnetism and its applications are requested to contact Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna, Editor, Geological Society of India, P. B. No. 1922, Gavipuram, Bangalore 560 019.

(2)

ISOTOPE GEOCHEMISTRY IN PETROGENESIS AND GEOCHRONOLOGY

In recent years, there has been an extensive application of isotope geochemistry along with major and trace elements to understand mineral, rock, and crust forming processes. Radioisotopes and their stable daughter products are presently being used more as a petrogenetic tool to evaluate magma sources and their tectonic environment than just for dating rocks. The significance of even the radiometric ages on rocks/minerals can be better appreciated from the parent-daughter isotopes behaviour in rock-forming processes. Also radiometric ages become more reliable and meaningful only when petrogenetic and geochronologic studies are integrated. In order to introduce the subject and to familiarise the problems to earth scientists of our country, who want to understand the present-day developments in geochemistry and isotope geology, the Geological Society of India plans to conduct a short course on 'Isotope Geochemistry in Petrogenesis and Geochronology' in December, 1990. The course will be offered by Prof. V. Rajamani of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and by Dr. S. Balakrishnan of the University of Roorkee.

The course content includes atomic structure, isotopes and radioactivity; crystal chemical properties of relevant isotopes in rock-forming minerals; isotopes as trace elements in rock-forming processes; radioactive decay and growth of daughter products, isochron method of dating rocks and minerals; Rb-Sr, Sm-Nd and REE systems in dating and petrogenesis; examples of application of Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd isotopic systems to Indian rocks.

Those interested in taking advantage of the course are requested to contact Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna, Geological Society of India, P. B. No. 1922, Gavipuram, Bangalore 560 019, before 31st July 1990.