

**FIRST 'INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING',
20-24 APRIL 1993 AT SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND**

About 250 participants from 50 different countries worldwide attended the First 'International Conference on Geoscience Education and Training' (GEOED 93) held at the University of Southampton from 20-24th April 1993. The conference was chiefly organised by the Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID) and the Commission on Geoscience Education and Training (COGEOED).

India was represented by Prof. B.B.S. Singhal, University of Roorkee, Dr. S.D.L. Limaye, Pune, Dr. R. V. Karanth, M. S. University of Baroda, Dr. S. C. Goswami, Dibrugarh University and Mrs. Madhumita Das, Utkal University.

The proceeding of the conference was split into four themes :

- A. Geoscience Education in Schools,
- B. Higher Education.
- C. Geoscience Training for Business, Industry and Public Service.
- D. Public understanding of Geoscience. In addition to these, there was a special session on 'Women in Geo science'. Trade Exhibition, and exhibition from delegates like teaching materials and Geofilms/Geophotographs were also organised.

In Theme A : Geoscience education in schools, a worldwide survey of Earth Science education in schools, laboratory and field investigation, resource materials and teaching strategies and teacher education were discussed. In theme B : Higher education, the geoscience degree, its duration, relative proportion of field work, lab work and theory were discussed. The methods and materials for lectures and laboratory, new and innovative methods in teaching like self instruction and video-interactive learning were suggested. A need to produce graduate students who were flexible and could adapt from one employment channel to another was suggested. The theme C : Geoscience training for business, industry and public service was much more interesting. The type of graduate required by the employer was discussed. The multidisciplinary communication professional linkage between Universities, Research Institutes, International Organisations, Geological Surveys and Commercial Organisations was stressed. The theme D : Public understanding of geo-science discussed the vital role geosciences play in underpinning the social and industrial infrastructure of nations and geology's diverse applications. The earth scientists were urged to be effective communicators through various media. There was a separate workshop on geofilms.

Similar International Conference has been recommended to be held periodically, possibly once in two years. It is hoped to hold a second conference in 1995, possibly in Bulgaria. It is quite appropriate to conclude the report with Sir Gordon Higginson's remark from his welcome speech, 'It is a remarkable achievement to bring together such a large and multinational group for the sole purpose of discussing education ! Most conferences we host are exclusively research oriented.'

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