NOTES

SECOND SOUTH ASIA GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS: A REPORT

The Second South Asia Geological Congress (GEOSAS-II) organised by the Ministry of Industrial Development, Govt. of Sri Lanka was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo from January 19th to 24th 1995. There were 291 delegates and accompanying members, comprising 110 from Sri Lanka, 69 from India, 47 from Pakistan, 24 from Bangladesh, 8 from Nepal, 2 from the Maldives, and 31 from other countries. The afternoon of the opening day was devoted to the delivery of four Keynote Addresses, namely (1) Geology of the Indian Shield - An overview by M. Ramakrishnan, (2) Groundwater condition in Semi-arid Hard-rock areas of Peninsular India by S.D. Limaye, (3) Energy challenge for tomorrow by Hilal M. Raza and (4) New Challenges for environmental geoscientists by Ed. F.J. deMulder.

The following four days of the Congress encompassed 13 technical sessions on various subjects such as Regional Geology, Orogenic Belts, Precambrian Geology, Quaternary Geology, Stratigraphy, Marine Geology, Agro-Geology, Environmental Geology and Urban Geology, Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Geological Hazards, Ophiolites, Metallic Minerals, Industrial Minerals and Energy Resources. Papers were presented in 3 parallel oral sessions and a poster session which reflected recent trends in research in the various subdisciplines. There were also three sessions on the focal themes of Regional Co-operation in Geoscientific Services, Environmental Monitoring and Planning in the South Asia Region, and Earth Sciences as Basic Component of All Education.

Another highlight of the GEOSAS-II was the high quality of the Public Lectures delivered to large audiences each evening by outstanding personalities in the global geoscientific community. Alan Morgan of Waterloo University, Canada talked on Global Change which was a brilliant exposition of the state of the art on global environment. Dr. Dorrik Stow of the Southampton University, UK talked on the nature and composition of the world's greatest deep sea fan sediments stretching from the Ganges delta to way beyond the latitude of Sri Lanka. There was also a talk on Europrobe by David Gee. Prof. Kensaku Tamaki of the Tokyo University traced the history of the Indian Ocean during the past 150 million years after the break-up of Gondwanaland.

Immediately after the Congress a three-day excursion across the Hill Country of Sri Lanka and a one-day excursion to Ratnapura, "The City of Gems", were organised. Apart from the Abstracts Volume and Excursion Guide, a souvenir volume on the Geology and Mineral Resources of Sri Lanka was provided to the delegates. The proceedings of the GEOSAS-I held in 1992 was also released during the Congress. The main recommendations of the Congress are the compilation of Directory of Geological Services (Labs., Training, etc) identifications of national focal points to promote GEOSAS activities, publication of newsletter and educating policy makers on the earth science in the service of the society.

GEOSAS is the brainchild of the doyen of Sri Lanka geology Prof. P.G. Cooray. This Congress is aimed to promote a close interaction in the SAARC and ECO Regions (the Geosas Region) like similar regional meets in Latin America, Asia and S.E. Asia. The triennial Congress held its first session in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1992. The third Congress is to be held in Bangladesh in 1999.

Geological Survey of India, Calcutta — M. RAMAKRISHNAN

Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad — P. SANGURMATH

Geological Survey of India, Lucknow — H.P. SHARDA

NORTHWEST HIMALAYA AND THE FOREDEEP

Organised by the Geological Survey of India, Northern Region during 21-23 February, 95 at Lucknow, the symposium on Recent Advances in the Geological Studies of the Northwest Himalaya and the Foredeep, was well attended by over 350 delegates from different Earth Science Institutions in the country.

The themes included Stratigraphy, Palaeontology, Metamorphism and Magmatism, Mineral potential, Energy potential, Geothermal, Geophysical, Geotectonical, Glaciology and Geoenvironmental Studies and Foredeep formation and Development.

Special invited lectures were on "Hydro-carbon potential and foredeep," "Water Resources Development and Seismotectonic set up in Himalaya," "Identification and characterisation of hazard of zones," "Late Quaternary sedimentation of Ganga foredeep basin," "Regional tectonic framework and active inter-continental deformation in South Tienshan and Tibet" and "Sequences stratigraphy and major geological events of Himalayas."

Some of the conclusions and recommendations that emerged after the deliberations are:

(i) Need to refine - Precambrian stratigraphy with more charno-stratigraphic controls based on inputs from isotope geology.

(ii) Extensive geophysical mapping to delineate basement structure as well as Moho and Lithosphere depths.

(iii) A detailed study concerning fluid movement, heat and mass transfer quantitatively including both laboratory and modelling investigations.

(iv) Increased attention to identify natural hazard prone areas and suggest means to minimise damage to life and property. Prepare data base for appropriate disaster management, relief and rehabilisation plans.

(v) Necessity to drill a couple of deep parametric bore holes in the foredeep region to study the inter relationship between the sequences in the Himalayas and the shield area. This will also help in better understanding of the structure underneath the Ganga basin.

Deputy Director General RAVI SHANKAR
Geological Survey of India, NR, Aliganj, Lucknow - 226 020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MATHEMATICAL GEOLOGY - 1995 ANNUAL CONFERENCE. 29 October - 2 November 1995, Osaka International Communication Hall, Osaka, Japan. Main Theme : Mathematical Geology for the studies of Resources, Environment, Hazard and Urban Geology. Partial support of travel and staying costs for selected participants from developing countries will be available. For details write to : Prof. Niichi Nishiwaki, Vice-Chairman of IAMG 1995, Faculty of Social Research, Nara University, 1500 Misasagicho, Nara City, 631, Japan.

Short Course on "**MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR MINERAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENTS.**" Dec. 20, 1995 to January 13, 1996. Sponsored by Association of Geoscientists for International Development. The course will be conducted at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Roorkee, Roorkee, U.P. For details, application forms, etc. write to : Prof. O.P. Varma, Course Director, Indian Geological Congress, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Roorkee, Roorkee - 247 667.