

BOOK REVIEW

GEOLOGY IN SOUTH ASIA - II, edited by N.P. Wijayananda, P.G. Cooray and Peter Mosley, Professional Paper No.7, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, # 4, Senanayake Building, Galle Road, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka, 1997, Price US \$ 15 + postage.

This large paperback volume embodies the Proceedings of the Second South Asia Geological Congress (GEOSAS-II) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on January 19-24, 1995. A brief summary of the congress has appeared in these columns (JGSI, v.45, 1995, p. 620). The volume starts with opening addresses and messages by VIPs at the inaugural session and is followed by keynote addresses on energy challenges for tomorrow (Hilal R. Raza), challenges in environmental geoscience (E.F.J. de Mulder) and water resource management in Deccan Trap terrain (S.D. Limaye). Technical papers forming the backbone of the volume are presented under five thematic divisions. There are altogether 45 papers of which 26 are from India, 9 from Pakistan, 4 from Sri Lanka and the rest from other countries.

Division A includes the following papers: the alkaline complex of Baradangua in Orissa, granitic plutons of NW Himalaya, gneiss to charnockite transition in Coorg (Karnataka), Trans Aravalli-Himalaya tectonic connection, fabric of the famous Makrana marbles of Rajasthan and ferricrete-calcrete formation in Rajasthan. Papers on geochemistry deal with basalts of Naga Hill ophiolite, low-Ti Deccan basalts near Manmad, Malani Igneous Suite near Sankara and kimberlite-lamprophyre association in Pakistan. Division B consists of papers on Tertiary sandstones of Garo Hills, Pleistocene fluvial deposits of J & K, sedimentary cores from Indian Ocean, depositional environment of Permian carbonates of Kashmir, Quaternary sediments on the Madras coast, carbonate turbidites from Sulaiman fold belt, Siwalik mammals of India and Nepal, Miocene palynofossils from Bangladesh and K-T boundary in Narmada valley.

In the section on mineral and energy resources, the topics covered include the following: Bamangaon polymetallic prospect in Nepal, volcanic-hosted copper mineralisation in Kohistan arc, ore prospects of Panjal in Azad Kashmir, lead-zinc-baryte mineralisation in Balochistan, phosphorite in Jaisalmer, lateritic bauxite in Turkey and building stones of Sindh in Pakistan. There are also papers on heavy minerals and ilmenite placers in the shelf sediments of Maharashtra as well as zircon placers in Tamilnadu. Papers under energy resources deal with petroleum source rocks in the Siwalik of Nepal, resistivity logs of Sui gasfield in Pakistan, hydrocarbon prospects of Saurashtra offshore, dry processing technique for certain minerals, Carboniferous spores in South Wales coalfield, and statics in seismic refraction data processing.

There is a welcome accent on societal geology which is the need of the day. Papers on hydrology include geoelectric sounding for groundwater, hydrogeological methods to prevent water logging in crop fields, geohydrology of Barasat area of West Bengal and distribution of fluoride, iodide and metal ions in groundwater at Kandy, Sri Lanka. Geophysical techniques for use in geotechnics, land management in Sri Lanka and soil properties in degraded land in Pakistan are other papers of concern to the people. There is a solitary paper on recent changes in geological education at undergraduate and post-graduate levels in Russia.

This handsome volume is nicely produced with a few good colour photographs. The figures are well drafted, editing tidy and papers are well organised in a logical sequence.

This volume deserves to adorn the shelves of all earth science libraries.

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