

## A Munificent Gift

We had commended in an earlier Editorial (*JGSI*, v.48, pp.125-126) the example of Shri Abheraj Baldota of Mineral Sales Private Limited (MSPL), a leading industrialist, in becoming the first Corporate Member of our Society. MSPL represents the largest private sector mining company in Karnataka known for its commitment to the healthy growth of the mining industry and to a value system based on concern for the industrial worker and for society at large.

Far excelling their previous gesture, MSPL have now come forward with a generous grant of Rupees Twelve Lakhs solely for the purpose of acquiring additional accommodation for the Society and providing it with a well-equipped air conditioned lecture-cum-seminar hall with the latest state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. This gesture, we understand, is aimed at catalyzing and fostering purposeful research on aspects of the mineral industry. The intended facility will also provide a forum for the many organisations in the immediate neighbourhood to know more about our planet earth and how it works.



Shri Abheraj Baldota

While making their intent known to us, Shri Narendra Kumar A. Baldota, Joint Managing Director of MSPL states:

“We have been a Corporate Member of your learned Society and observing the rapid progress of the Society during the last decades. Geological Society of India has maintained the correct standard of efficiency both for academic as well as professional earth scientists and has been a forum for cooperation, communication and publication of the results of scientific work in the field of Earth Science and acts as a catalyst for development of mining industry.”

Shri Narendra Kumar A. Baldota, Shri Rahul N. Baldota and Shri Shrenik N. Baldota, son and grandsons of Abheraj Baldota respectively are continuing the traditions established by their elders in returning to society a part of the corporate wealth they have earned

through their own efforts in the truest sense of trusteeship advocated by the Father of the Nation.

We cannot but help recall on this occasion the generous bequest made by R.A.F. Penrose, Jr. of the United States in 1931 of 4 million dollars to the Geological Society of America which has formed the principal source of funds for all the developmental activities of that Society.

Although philanthropy to foster knowledge and learning was a part of our ancient cultural heritage, it has yet to manifest itself in a substantial way in the modern corporate context of India barring some notable exceptions.

Basic knowledge of the earth we inhabit, its history and processes is essential for every educated citizen of this country to appreciate the delicate balance between environment and human existence. Geology becomes very relevant in an age characterized by environmental degradation caused by pollution, hazardous waste disposal, overpopulation and depletion of mineral and fuel resources. Leaders of public opinion and policy-makers of the nation need to be provided with cogent arguments supported by reliable documentation on all aspects having a bearing on earth sciences, environment and public welfare.

The Geological Society of India is a non-profit organization for the advancement of geological sciences and, if all its Fellows resolve to contribute their mite in whatever way each can, it can become a mighty force for growth, diversification of our activities and achievement.

The addition of the new facility provided by the Baldotas will be the necessary fillip to engender a new impetus for the meeting of minds of those in government organisations, academia and private enterprise. The publication activity of the Society, which has been modest till now, can be expected to be further expanded to provide quick dissemination of knowledge.

The example set by the Baldota family and the MSPL is indeed laudable and we hope that other corporate giants in the mineral sector in their own interest and in the growth of the mineral industry, will come forward with further generous grants to enable us to enhance the status of Earth Science studies in India effectively.

We once again take this opportunity, through the columns of the Journal, to thank most sincerely the Baldota family for their generous offer of help and their services to the growth of the mineral industry in India.

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