

## ***XXVI IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne. "Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet"*** – V.M. Tiwari, NGRI (CSIR), Hyderabad (Email:vmtiwar@ngri.res.in)

### **Theme and Structure of Assembly**

International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG; www.iugg.org/), an international scientific organization promoting inter-disciplinary studies in understanding the Earth system, holds its General Assembly (GA) at four-year intervals. This year, GA of IUGG was held in Melbourne, Australia on the focal theme "Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet" during 28<sup>th</sup> June - 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. The comprehensive program of eight IUGG associations on major scientific issues of global and regional significance was structured in 198 symposia. Contemporary science and societal issues, such as natural hazards from earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, natural and anthropogenic climate change, sea level rise and water were the emphases of the assembly. GA was attended by more than 3200 scientists from 92 countries. Nine Union Plenary Lectures by internationally renowned scientists, who have summarized the well-established research, argued about real science debates with future directions in their respective area of specialization, were important attraction of GA. Earth Science in Africa was one of the special themes of the assembly.

### **Indian Participation**

Importance of participation of Indian scientists in the International meetings for showcasing the Indian scientific contributions is repeatedly discussed in different forum. However, constraints on sufficient financial support are often experienced by the participants. It was a welcome indication that more than 60 scientists from India participated in GA of IUGG. Indian National Science Academy

(INSA) and MoES, New Delhi had provided financial support to many of the participants. Presentations by Indian scientists covered diverse topics from the studies of deep lithosphere to the upper atmosphere. Two national geoscience institutions; National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI-CSIR), Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai supported more than 30 scientists from their institutes to present their research findings. Majority of them were early career researchers.

### **Resolution of IUGG**

In the end of GA, the Council of IUGG passed five Resolutions and urged the international and national institutions, agencies and governmental bodies for the support. The five resolutions are as follows.

1. Standardized Schemes for the Terminology for Glacier Mass Balance Measurements and for Classification of Snow on the Ground
2. Gravity and Magnetic Field Satellite Missions
3. Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame
4. Adoption of the International Thermodynamic Equation of Seawater – 2010 (TEOS-10)
5. A Resolution of Thanks to organising committee

### **Election of IUGG President**

Dr. Harsh Gupta, President, Geological Society of India and Panikkar Professor at National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR), Hyderabad has been elected as President of the IUGG for the period 2011–2015 with majority votes of IUGG council. Earlier Prof. Gupta served the IUGG as the Vice President for the period 2007-2011.



Prof. Tom Beer, Past President, IUGG along with Secretary General of IUGG, Prof. Alik Ismail-Zadeh congratulating Prof. Harsh Gupta during the closing ceremony of IUGG on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 on his election as President IUGG.

### **Venue of next General Assembly**

Venue of the next GA of IUGG is decided by IUGG Council through voting on proposal. This year, five countries (Argentina, Czech Republic, Denmark, India and USA) made proposals to host IUGG 2015. This was a unique situation in the 90 year history of IUGG that so many countries desired to host the GA. The IUGG executive committee constituted a *Site Selection Committee* to scrutinize the bid proposals considering varied criteria including infrastructure, climatic conditions and others. Among the five countries presenting the bid to host IUGG-GA, the well-presented Indian bid was appreciated by several council members. Based on 12 criterions laid down by the *Site Selection Committee*, recommendation of two names, Czech Republic and the USA, was approved for voting of Council. Prague, Czech Republic has been voted to host IUGG-GA 2015.