

## XXIII Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy (ICMS) – A. Govindan, Chennai

Since 1971 the ICMS Colloquia have been held every two years at universities and national institutes across India. The XXIII ICMS was held during 9-11 December 2011 at the Department of Geology, Bangalore University, where ICMS was originally conceived, organized and hosted in 1971 by the great visionaries Prof. Sambe Gowda and Prof. L. Rama Rao. Both of them took great interest in spreading this specialized branch in geosciences through their teachings and research contributions and the colloquia served as a venue for scientific interactions for scientists across India and beyond. Forty years after the inception of ICMS, these colloquia have become some of the most successful scientific meetings drawing large numbers of students and professional across India and attracting significant international participation.

The XXIII ICMS focused on Micropaleontological and Stratigraphical studies in India with a series of colloquia and the International Symposium on Global Bioevents in Earth History. This colloquium was jointly sponsored by Bangalore University and the Geological Society of

India and supported by DST, CSIR, Ministry of Earth Sciences, NIO and ONGC. The conference attracted 300 delegates from universities, colleges, national institutes and government organizations across India as well as international participants besides, including the USA and Switzerland.

A pre-colloquium workshop was hosted for students on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 to familiarize them with recent developments in Micropalaeontological research and demonstrate career opportunities and the value of working in this discipline. Various delegates spoke on aspects ranging from basic to advanced techniques in micropalaeontology and its applications. Student participants from Dharwad, Mysore, Chennai, North Eastern States etc expressed great satisfaction for attending the this event.

The XXIII ICMS commenced on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at the Prof. Venkatagiri Gowda auditorium, Bangalore University, Bangalore. Dr. S.N. Bhalla, Chief guest, in his inaugural address expressed the need of using a wide range of

applications based on microfossils and stable isotopes in deciphering the paleoenvironments in Earth history. Mr. R.H. Sawkar, Secretary, GSI, released the Abstract volume for the meeting and recounted cherished memories of the late Prof. Sambe Gowda and his interests and contributions to the palaeontological sciences. Prof. M.P. Singh, Secretary PSI, expressed his happiness to be at Bangalore colloquium after long absence and recounted his association with the late Prof. Sambe Gowda. Prof. P.K. Kathal dedicated his book on Micropaleontology to Prof. S.N. Bhalla.

The President of the XXIII ICMS, Dr. D.S.N. Raju, in his presidential address stressed on the need of using Time Units in stratigraphy, particularly in Indian basins. Dr. Gerta Keller, President of the International Symposium expressed the urgent need for multi-disciplinary studies in India integrating micropaleontology and stratigraphy with stable isotopes and other geochemical environmental proxies. Dr. Nigam, Chairman XXIII ICMS, complimented the faculty of Geology Department,



Delegates XXIII ICMS, Department of Geology, Bangalore University, Bangalore

BUB & Organizing Committee members for taking the task of conducting the colloquium and expressed relevance of micropalaeontological studies to solve environmental problems past and present.

The Abstract Volume contains 175 abstracts received for the colloquium and symposia. The colloquium featured 115 oral presentations including 15 keynote addresses in 10 technical sessions held at two different venues – the Prof. C. Naganna and Prof. Venkatagiri Gowda auditoriums. In addition, 30 posters were displayed providing an opportunity to interact informally with the contributors while enjoying Karnataka cuisine during lunch and coffee breaks. Participants from across India and delegates from abroad, particularly from Switzerland and USA etc., attended and presented research findings. This large and successful gathering of scientists testifies to the immense growth of this field in India.

Topics presented and deliberated in the technical sessions covered the full spectrum ranging from Precambrian Proterozoic to recent biota, from laboratory culture of

foraminifera to foraminifera in deep time, from stable isotope and trace elements in foraminifera to age dating. Biozonations and their refinements were presented based on nannofossils, palynomorphs, diatoms, small and larger foraminifera. A major focus centered on microfossil remains and their relevance to climatic oscillations and the variability of the Indian monsoon system. Another theme focused on ostracodes, diatoms and algal remains in interpreting past environments and climatic associations. A number of contributions focused on palynology and planktic foraminifera to determine the potential cause-and-effect relationship between the end-Cretaceous mass extinction and Deccan volcanism. Climatic and environmental effects were evaluated based on increasing carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide levels resulting in global warming, global cooling and ocean acidification that may have led to the mass extinction at KT boundary.

The valedictory session on the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day focused on several aspects deliberated in the colloquium and noted by Dr. Govindan in his address and elaborated

further by Dr. Gerta Keller in her address. The role of the Geological Society of India in promoting the geosciences by way of supporting conferences, field trips, textbooks, memoirs and journals, was narrated by Prof. Mahabaleshwar, Editor, JGSI to the delegates. He invited research contributions from the participants and he assured to publish in 6 months. Participants complemented the conveners, faculty and student volunteers for the warm hospitality extended to them. The cultural evenings conducted by students, research scholars and Prof. Narahari Rao, HOD, enthralled the delegates. Prizes were distributed for the best three posters.

In the closing ceremony all living past conveners of ICMS colloquia were honored with a memento and shawl. The current convener, Dr. Malarkodi, co-convener Dr. Nagesh and the organizing committee members were complimented for successfully conducting the meeting. The announcement for the next colloquium was made for the year 2013 at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun.