

NEWS AND NOTES

12th International Ni-Cu-(PGE) Symposium – P. V. Sunder Raju, CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad (Email: perumala.raju@gmail.com)

The 12th International Ni-Cu-PGE symposium (12th INS) was held during 12-21st June, 2012 in Guiyang, China. It was a very successful and special event with about 75 delegates from China and over 100 delegates from other countries. More than 50 papers were presented in seven sessions and one Pre-congress short course. Prof. Xieyan Song, President of the 12th INS, welcomed everyone and highlighted the fact that the conference would nurture novel ideas and thus help State Key Laboratory of Ore Deposits (SKLOD) to have a proper understanding of the Ni-Cu-PGE and the geological processes that control them.

The first plenary lecture was about “What we know, what (I think) we know, and what we do not know about the concentration of PGE and chromite by Prof. Tony Naldrett of the University of Toronto which was followed by a thought provoking talk by Prof. S.-J. Barnes of University of Chicoutimi, Canada. It was also discussed that the development of new tools in understanding the Ni-Cu-PGE would lead to a significant economic growth in future. The keynote speeches and technical presentations were delivered by eminent researchers like Prof Mike Lesher, Ed Ripley, Steve Barnes, Reid Keays, Alan Wilson and Nicholas Arndt.

The keynote speeches and technical presentations reported recent advances in a diverse range of topics on PGE mineralization in mafic-ultramafic intrusions, fundamentals of Ni-Cu-(PGE) sulphide deposits, geochemistry of chalcophile and siderophile elements,



Field visit to giant Jinchuan Ni-Cu-PGE deposit (open pit in background)

other PGE deposits in and around Asia and especially Sukinda chromite field. A number of presentations by young geoscientists hailing from prestigious research laboratories in China were also presented. The use of isotopic tracers such as S, O, Re-Os, Lu-Hf in understanding the magma replenishment and enrichment processes in Jinchuan and Emishen picrites and basalts received a laudable response. Two papers presented from CSIR-NGRI on “Enrichment of Ni-Cr-PGE in bore hole samples from Katphal” and “LA-ICPMS-EPMA-SEM studies on chromite and associated PGMs of Western Dharwar Craton”, Karnataka generated a good response to have a relook on the metamorphosed mafic-ultramafics for any PGE

mineralization with respect to the global scenario.

The pre-conference short course mainly focussed on the fundamentals of magmatic sulphide deposits, isotopic tracers, komatiite related Ni-Cu-PGE deposits, followed by case studies on the giant Jinchuan Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposit, Voiseys Bay, Bushveld complex and Norilsk Ni-Cu-PGE deposit. The lectures were delivered by stalwarts like Prof. Tony Naldrett, Ed Ripley, Mike Lesher, Stephen Barnes, Sarah Jane Barnes, Wolfgang Maier as well as several young scientists.

The conference was followed by a field visit to Jinchuan Ni-Cu-PGE deposit at Jinchuan city in Lanzhou province which included both surface and underground mine.