

held in which a drastic change in the earth science education was discussed in the light of contemporary needs, specially in applied geology and entrepreneurship. Introduction of geology as one of the optional subjects at senior secondary school level was stressed by most of the participants. The Valedictory Address of Shri N.S. Bohra, Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan on "Five Decades of Mineral Resources Development in Rajasthan: An Overview" was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Vinod Agrawal, Secretary 12<sup>th</sup> IGC.

The following recommendations were made at the Congress:

1. Groundwater should be considered as critically-renewable asset and there is need for its rational utilization. A national water policy based on this concept is called for.
2. Regional Mineral Quality Assessment Centre (RQAC) should be set up in every state of the country. The RQAC should have facility/equipment for characterization of chemical and physical properties of minerals/rocks, especially in relation to their industrial specifications.
3. There is a need for better coordination between university and industry and efforts should be made to achieve it for national development.
4. Society and industry-oriented research should be promoted and dispersal of its results should reach common man through the publications in popular magazines, newspapers, TV and the internet.
5. Drastic change in the curricula of earth science education is called for in light of contemporary needs and developments. Aspects of applied geology and entrepreneurship should be promoted. Introduction of geology as one of the optional subjects at senior secondary school level is recommended.

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### **XVII INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALAEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY (27-29 Jan. 2000)**

The XVII Indian Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy (ICMS) was organised by the School of Studies in Geology, Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh from 27 to 29 January 2000 under the Convernorship of Dr. Pramendra Dev, Professor and Head. In his inaugural address Prof. K.K. Singh, formerly Vice Chancellor of the Jiwaji University, Gwalior spoke on the multifarious uses of microfossils. Prof. P.S. Dubey, Vice Chancellor of Vikram University welcomed the delegates. Prof. S.N. Bhalla of Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, in his presidential address "Micropaleontology – what lies ahead" discussed what has been done and what is yet to be done in micropaleontology in India. He exhorted that the microfossils should be utilised to know sea level changes, environmental changes etc. during Quaternary and suggested that mysterious problems such as the disappearance of river Saraswati can be solved by studying microfossils.

The colloquium was attended by over 75 delegates from various Indian Universities/Institutions/Organisations. As many as 90 abstracts were received and 46 research papers were presented in 12 technical sessions covering various fossil groups, viz., foraminifers, ostracodes, echinoides, belemnites, pteropods, calcareous algae, palynofossils, dinoflagellates, acritarchs, ichnofossils, etc. and on biostratigraphy and biofacies analyses. One session was exclusively devoted to the use of Hindi in scientific writing and Dr. Y.C. Sharma of the Commission for Scientific and Technical

Terminology, New Delhi spoke about the progress made by the commission on the evolution of Hindi equivalents of scientific terms.

The unique feature of the colloquium was presentation of four invited talks by renowned experts.

1. Modern and Early Holocene pollen data from Priyadarshini lake, Antarctica by Dr. Chhaya Sharma of BSIP, Lucknow.
2. Recent Foraminifera - Tool for high resolution paleomonsoon reconstruction by Dr. Rajiv Nigam of NIO, Goa.
3. Recent developments in studies of palynostratigraphy and paleoenvironment by Dr. N.C. Mehrotra of KDMPE, ONGC, Dehra Dun.
4. Precambrian Crustal Growth from the Earliest Transient Crust to the Assembly and Break-up of Supercontinents by Dr. A.B. Roy of Department of Geology, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

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### **CONTACT COURSE-CUM-FIELD WORKSHOP ON PHYSICAL STRATIGRAPHY AND PALAEOBIOLOGY FOR YOUNG EARTH SCIENTISTS FROM NORTHEAST INDIA**

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) organises a series of Contact Course-cum-Field Workshops for the young earth scientists from institutions in Northeast India in order to strengthen earth science studies and develop scientific manpower in this region. A first course in this series, on Physical Stratigraphy and Palaeobiology was held in Nagaland University at its Medziphema campus from January 10 to 30, 2000. Lecturers, research scholars, project staff and professionals from State departments from Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland participated in the course. The course introduced modern concepts of sedimentation, physical stratigraphy, micropalaeontology and palaeobiology and consisted of lectures, laboratory exercises and fieldwork. Various aspects of sedimentation and environment were explained and discussed with special reference to the geology of Northeast India. Basic concepts in stratigraphy were given and some modern concepts including seismic stratigraphy, were introduced. Fieldwork was conducted between Medziphema and Dimapur to explain mapping and preparation of graphic logs. Local stratigraphy, especially the nature of Disang and Barail, was discussed in the field. Major topics in palaeobiology included phylogenetic analysis, isotopic palaeobiology and quantitative techniques in biostratigraphy and evolution. The morphology and classification of ostracoda and foraminifera were discussed, and a number of laboratory classes were held to demonstrate sample preparation and to explain morphological features. Field work was carried out at Dillai to show sampling techniques for micropalaeontological studies.

A feedback from participants stressed the need for such courses in different fields of earth sciences including follow-up courses in specialized topics.

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