

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Geotechnica Trade Fair–Congress, September 18-21, 1991, Cologne.** The preservation of the earth as a challenge to science and technology will be the general theme of the Congress. This challenge is being emphatically made by the environment itself. The ozone gap, pollution of the seas and drinking water reserves, the exploitation of natural resources and energy reserves, the problems of contaminant residues and waste disposal, the destruction of primeval forests, dying forests and the perilous consequences for every living organism in the world – these themes have not only concerned specialists for some time. But the specialists, experts, and scientists are being called upon to seek possible solutions to these problems. They are vigorously working toward new methods to ward off the dangers. Many effective solutions for the improvement of the environment situation have already been found and many practicable ways have already been demonstrated.

The congress, conceived for the first time as an interdisciplinary forum of information in the service of an intact planet, will be oriented around the central theme 'Preserving the Earth – a Challenge to Science and Technology' on four days and will cover four fundamental allied topics which logically derive from the given tasks. 1. The Geobiosphere in the Process of Change; 2. Data Registration and Exploration of the Earth's System; 3. Exploitation of the Geobiosphere; and 4. Adaption of the results for environmental protections.

The *geotechnica*-trade fair : with exhibitors from 5 continents with the latest instruments, systems, methods and solutions for problems. Specialists will be available for discussions and to give information and presentations.

For further details please write to: Cologne Congress Management GmbH Geotechnica, Postfach 180 180, D-5000 Koln 1.

**International Symposium on Evolution of Deserts, February 11-19, 1992.** The Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, the Arid Zone Research Association of India, Jodhpur and the Deccan College, Pune, are pleased to announce an International Symposium on the Evolution of Deserts to be held at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad during February 11-19, 1992. The symposium would also include the final meeting of the IGCP-252 working-group on the Past and Future Evolution of Deserts. It is proposed that the symposium at Ahmedabad will be followed by a four day, 1200 km field-trip to the Indian Thar Desert. The symposium will have a theme session on the Climatic Changes in Deserts over different time scales. The focus of the theme session will be to compare climatic sequences from various deserts (particularly with that of the Thar Desert) and the marine paleoclimatic records. A series of invited review talks on climate modelling, paleoclimatic studies, remote sensing studies and paleoanthropology are also planned.

Registration fee for participants : Rs. 500/-. Focal Themes for the symposium are : Origin and evolution of deserts ; Geochronology of deserts ; Physics of desertification ; Man and desertification ; Aeolian processes.

The convenors would like to encourage participation of young scientists, interested in studies related to Global Change and Deserts. It may be possible to support participation of some candidates. Application for this should be made immediately, alongwith curriculum vitae, abstract (s) and a letter of recommendation.

For further particulars contact : Dr. A. K. Singhvi, Convenor, Symposium on Deserts, Earth Science Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009, India.