

AGE OF WITWATERSRAND SEDIMENTARY BASIN

A recent paper in *Precambrian Research* (Armstrong, R. A. and others, 1991, Zircon ion-microprobe studies bearing on the age and evolution of the Witwatersrand Triad, *Precambrian Res.*, v. 53, pp. 243-266) outlines ion-microprobe studies on zircon from volcanic rocks within the Witwatersrand basin. Felsic and volcanic rocks from the Ventersdrop supergroup have yielded ages of 2709 ± 4 Ma and 2714 ± 8 Ma respectively which sets the upper limit for sedimentation in the Witwatersrand basin. An age of 3074 ± 6 Ma is given for volcanics within the lower Dominion Group within the same basin giving a time interval of as much as 350 Ma for the accumulation of sediments. The possibility of extensive time gaps between the Dominion and Ventersdrop volcanism has been envisaged.

The paper should prove interesting to stratigraphers in India as it sheds new light on the drawing of the Archaean-Proterozoic boundary at 2500 Ma. The timing of the associated gold mineralisation is placed in Archaean. These recent developments point to the need for a revision of existing models of crustal evolution.

Studies on the age of zircons from volcanic rocks within the different Proterozoic sedimentary basins of India should receive early attention. The precise age of the volcanic rocks of the Witwatersrand furnished by the authors of the above paper forms a most important chronostratigraphic information on Late Archaean Sedimentary basins of the World.

GEOLOGICAL MAPS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

A six-sheet series of geological maps covering south and southeast Asia are stated to be available on a scale of 1 : 5,000,000. The maps proper cover 4 sheets, while two sheets comprise the legend including stratigraphic columns.

This issue, the third edition of 1990, has only recently been released by the Commission for the Geological maps of the World, Subcommission for South and Southeast Asia. The geographical base was compiled by the Geological Survey of India (wrongly mentioned as Geological Society of India) with digital processing of the geology by the Robertson group. Copies of the six sheets are available at £ 95 from Geoscientific Publications Series, 14, Orieston, Mews, London NW7 8L4 U.K. – (Mining Journal, Jan 24, 1992, p. 159).

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 14th New Zealand Geothermal Workshop, 4, 5, 6 November 1992, at Auckland, New Zealand. Organised by the Geothermal Institute in conjunction with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Auckland.

The meeting will provide a forum for exchange of information on all aspects of exploration, development and use of geothermal resources worldwide. Intending authors should submit a title and abstract (max 100 words) to the convenors by **3 July 1992**. All accepted papers will be published in the Proceedings of the Workshop which are distributed worldwide. This year the workshop has a special theme and papers on environmental aspects are particularly welcome.

For further particulars contact : Professional Courses Centre for Continuing Education, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, at **Auckland, New Zealand**.