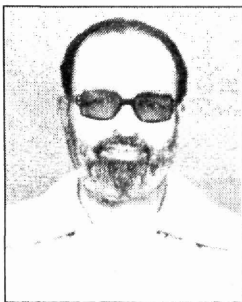


NEWS AND NOTES

5th International Conference on 'Environmental Micropalaeontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology', Chennai, India.

EMMM '2008 was jointly organized by the Department of Applied Geology, University of Madras, International Society of Environmental Micropalaeontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology (ISEMMM), Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada and OSORNO Enterprise Inc., Canada during 17-25th February, 2008 at Chennai. EMMM '2008 is the fifth in a series, the earlier EMMM conferences were held in Tel Aviv (Israel 1974), Winnipeg (Canada 2000), Vienna (Austria 2002) and Isparta (Turkey 2004). The ISEMMM ([www.Iseम्म.org](http://www.Isemmm.org)) is an international professional society with the goal of fostering research in environmental micropalaeontology, microbiology and meibenthology. It serves as a liaison between micropalaeontologists, microbiologists and meibenthologists, bringing together specialists with backgrounds in biological, geological, agricultural and environmental engineering for the development of interdisciplinary environmental research via collaboration, discussion and learning from each other for the benefit of the environment, human health and welfare.



The proceedings of the Seminar is brought out in an elegant volume containing a large number of extended abstracts. It is heartening to find the volume dedicated to Prof. Sambes Gowda (1928-1981), a pioneer in micropalaeontology. Prof. Gowda was the founder of the Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy, organized the first Colloquium at Bangalore in 1971.

The EMMM '08 was attended by more than hundred Indian and overseas delegates, had six well defined major scientific sessions with distinct themes excluding poster session, workshop and field trips. Session I, III and IV were devoted to Micro and Meio-organisms as indicators of recent environment and pollution. Session II was confined to experimental study and modeling of extant and fossil organisms. Session V was devoted on tsunami deposits and micro and meioorganism signatures worldwide. Session VI was on Micro and Meioorganisms as palaeoenvironmental indicators. The overseas delegates enjoyed thoroughly the Indian hospitality and carried home new friendships and good memories. The organizers of the conference deserve compliments from all delegates for a well organized seminar. Russia will be hosting the 6th ISEMMM in 2010 at Moscow. The abstract volume is available for consultation at the Library of the Geological Society of India, Gavipuram P.O., Bangalore – 560 019.

Bangalore

U.B. MALLIKARJUNA

McKinstry's Book on 'Mining Geology' is Six Decades Old (nay young!)

The Foreword by Hugh Exton McKinstry to his book on 'Mining Geology' was dated April 1948. The content presented in the book is thus 60 years old now. It is amazing that the sheen of authenticity and relevance of the content remains glowing even today despite several breakthroughs achieved in concepts, sophistication accomplished in application tools, and vast amount of ground truth accrued from exploration and mining projects, over the past six decades.

Three statements made in the first two paragraphs of the 'foreword' are worth reminiscing at this juncture. They are"

1. "Manifestly there is no substitute for ingenuity and personal judgement, especially in a vocation which, in the present state of its growth is fully as much an art as a technology".
2. "Has not the time come when we can gather some of the fruits of this

Experience for the assistance of younger geologists as well as for others who wish to know more about how the Mining Geologist plies his trade? And 3. "Any attempt to explain what the Mining Geologist does and how he does it requires a survey of that incompletely charted borderland that lies between the respective domains of geology and mining. Of necessity the survey encroaches on both realms."

It is an axiomatic truth that a strong foundation of the basic tenets is an essential prerequisite for functional comprehension of any subject. McKinstry's book is proof of such a foundation insofar as Mining Geology is concerned.

'Mineral Resource Development has taken a back seat' is the caption for chapter devoted to present the grim state-of-the art in our country, in an article by B.P. Radhakrishna, published in volume 71 of the Journal of the Geological Society of India. Let us hope that the confluence, in 2008, of 50 years of completion of the Geological Society of India and 60 years of completion of McKinstry's book on 'Mining Geology', augurs an improved trend of mineral resource(s) development as there is no dearth for other resources and what is needed is just the 'will' to do by the individuals/institutions, of consequence!

No Earth Scientists concerned with prudence in mineral resource(s) development can afford to miss consulting McKinstry's book that is just 60 years young now!

Hyderabad

P.K. RAMAM

The Proterozoic Puzzle of Peninsular India

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(Abstract of the lecture delivered at
Hyderabad before the Indian Society
of Applied Geochemistry)

A few global problems of the Proterozoic Era currently addressed by the