

NOTES

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN EXPLORATION GEOLOGY AND GEOINFORMATICS

National seminar on “Recent Developments and Opportunities in Exploration Geology and Geoinformatics: An Industry and Academia Meet” (ExploreG² 2007) was organized by the Department of Geology, Periyar University, Salem from 7th to 9th March 2007 at Salem and Yercaud. Dr. Fareeduddin, Editor & Secretary, Geological Society of India inaugurated the seminar, released the abstract volume and delivered keynote address on “Exploration for Iron, Gold and Diamond in India: Retrospect and Prospect”. Prof. T. Balakrishnan, Vice chancellor, Periyar University presided over the inaugural function. He highlighted the importance of geology in overall development of the nation. About 90 scientists from 42 organizations participated and presented papers under five major themes viz., Mineral Exploration including fossil fuels and radioactive minerals, mining and planning, recent developments in geoinformatics, geoinformatics applications, exploration and management of water resources.

The first day of the seminar (7th March) devoted to first two themes. Dr. K. Ayyasami, GSI, Hyderabad has presented the invited talk on “Oil Prospects in the Cretaceous India” and Dr. Dhanaraju Ex. Director, AMD presented a paper on “Value addition in creation of wealth from waste in mineral exploration/ exploitation – examples from uranium, mineral sand, diamond . The other papers presented are ‘Salem Steel Plant and its National Importance’ by T. Muthukumar, “Beach mineral deposits in Tamil Nadu prospects and problems” by G.V. Rajamanickam, “Fluid inclusion studies in mineral exploration” by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, and “Sand mining” by Thiruvikramji. On 8th March, S/shri R. Rengarajan, N.Vijay Kumar and

V. Thirukumaran led the delegates for field excursion between Salem and Yercaud. At Yercaud, the morning session was devoted to the theme “Recent developments in Geoinformatics”. The important topics covered include “Developments in GIS” by Previsish Kumar, “Remote sensing and GIS visualization of impacts on sea level rise” by Saravanavel, “Simulations of Lunar X-ray fluorescence spectrum” by Shyama Narendranath and Sreekumar and “Spectral reflectance studies of lunar analog rocks and minerals” by Arivazhagan. A field visit to Bauxite mine was made in Shevroy Hill. On 9th March 2007, Prof. SM. Ramasamy and S. Adiga delivered invited talks on “Geomatics vistas in Geoexploration” and ‘Recent Developments in Geoinformatics’ respectively. The other topics covered are natural disaster mitigation, water resource information system, Groundwater flow patterns, Crystal stress and well collapse etc.

Dr. G. Gunasekaran, Registrar i/c, Periyar University has presided over the Valedictory function and Prof. SM. Ramasamy, Director, Centre for Remote Sensing Bharathidasan University has delivered the valedictory address. Shri. PM. Balasubramaniyan, Executive Director, Salem Steel Plant (SAIL) offered felicitation The ExploreG² – 2007 seminar has opened up a new chapter for industry – academia collaboration in this region and gave exposure to young students and scholars in the field of Exploration Geology & Geoinformatics.

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GAS HYDRATES – A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ENERGY

The National Seminar “Gas Hydrates – A Potential Source of Energy”, held at NIOT Campus, Chennai during 4-5th February, 2007 was jointly organized by NGRI, Hyderabad and NIOT (MoES). Scientists and researchers from several institutes (NGRI, NIO, NIOT and NCAOR), industries (ONGC, DGH) and universities (Osmania,

Andhra, Pondichery, ISM, BHU and IITs (Kharagpur and Roorkee) participated in this seminar. Four Russian scientists also participated in the seminar. As gas-hydrates are considered as future potential energy resource of India, it was aimed to bring scientists and technologists together at one platform for discussion and sharing expertise on