

XIX INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALAEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY AND SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN PALAEOCEANOGRAPHY AND PALAEOCLIMATE

The Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University organized the above colloquium to celebrate the 65th Birth Anniversary of Prof. M.S. Srinivasan from 9-11 October, 2003 under the convenership of the author of this report. The inaugural function held on 9th October, 2003 started with welcome address by the Convener followed by address by Prof. M. Joshi, Head, Department of Geology and Prof. P. Chandra, Dean Faculty of Science, BHU. The event was inaugurated by Shri Y.B. Sinha, Director Exploration, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited who was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. Shri Sinha in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy in hydrocarbon exploration, basin analysis, modeling, biostratigraphy and sequence stratigraphy. Dr. D. Ray, Executive Director, KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehra Dun who was the Guest of Honour in the inaugural function, released the Abstracts Volume containing 128 scientific contributions from universities, industries and institutes. Dr. Ray while speaking on the

occasion, laid emphasis on integrated geological studies for oil exploration involving multi proxy approach. The function was presided over by Prof. P. Ramachandra Rao, FNA, Vice-Chancellor, BHU. Prof. Rao described the tiny micro-organisms such as coccoliths, radiolaria, foraminifera as marvels of architectural engineering championed by the nature. Prof. Rao then highlighted the achievement* made by Prof. M.S. Srinivasan in his distinguished career and honoured Prof. Srinivasan by presenting him a bouquet on his 65th birth anniversary. Prof. M.S. Srinivasan while thanking the organizers, appealed to the young scientists to come forward to develop predictive models for forecasting climatic changes. Prof. V. Sharma, President of the XIX ICMS spoke of his early days as a student of Prof. Srinivasan and the history of development of the Micropalaeontology Laboratory in the Geology Department, BHU. The inaugural function came to an end with vote of thanks by the convener.

The event was attended by over 150 delegates from all



Shri Y.B. Sinha, Director (Exploration), ONGC Ltd. delivering the inaugural address.

over the country specializing in diverse fields of micropalaeontology, stratigraphy, palaeoceanography and palaeoclimate. The Technical Sessions began with Presidential address by Prof. V. Sharma of Delhi University who spoke on "Progress of Cenozoic Radiolarian Research: Indian Context". The presidential address was followed by release of the proceedings of the XVIII Colloquium jointly by Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Dr. D. Ray and Dr. Rajiv Nigam. The efforts made by Dr. Pradeep Kundal of Nagpur University as Editor of the Volume and Convener of the XVIII colloquium for the timely bringing out of the proceedings of the last colloquium was applauded.

80 presentations were made in eleven technical sessions in the three day colloquium. Eight special talks were delivered by eminent scientists from various fields of Micropalaeontology, Palaeoceanography, Palaeoclimate and Stratigraphy. Each special talk was followed by presentations on related theme.

The first special talk was by Dr. Rajiv Nigam of NIO, Goa on the "Life Span of Planktic Foraminifera". Dr. Nigam provided interesting data from Joint Global Ocean Flux Studies (JGOFS) envisaging longer life span for planktic foraminifera than believed earlier. The second special talk was by Dr. P. Divakar Naidu of NIO, Goa who spoke on Seasonal Sea Surface temperature contrasts between the Holocene and LGM in Arabian Sea. The Third Special talk was delivered by Dr. R. J. Azmi of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, who gave further evidences of small shelly fauna from the Chitrakut area of Vindhyan Basin and reiterated a Vendian to Cambrian age for the Vindhyan Sediments. This was followed by Fourth Special Talk by Dr. Vibhuti Rai of Lucknow University who spoke on his discovery of *Obruchevella* from the Vindhyan basin and stressed it to be the oldest record of this genus so far. There were several other interesting presentations on Precambrian biota.

There was a special session devoted to Microfossils and their role in hydrocarbon exploration which witnessed presentations from a large number of senior scientists from ONGC Ltd., representing various regional laboratories of ONGC from Dehra Dun, Chennai, Mumbai, Assam, Vadodara, Rajamundry etc. The session began with Fifth Special Talk by Dr. V. Narayanan of ONGC, Mumbai on

biostratigraphic synthesis of western offshore basins of India. Dr. Alok Dave of ONGC, Mumbai gave the sixth special talk on high resolution multiple microfossil biostratigraphy of early Miocene L-III reservoir of Mumbai High and stressed on the need to integrate biostratigraphic data obtained from different groups of microfossils.

Dr. Ani! Bhandari of KDMIPE, ONGC, Dehra Dun gave the sixth special talk on evolutionary trends and biostratigraphic significance of Ostracods in Cenozoic successions of India followed by a number of presentations on Ostracods and their role in biostratigraphy, palaeoecology and palaeoenvironmental studies.

One of the main attractions of the colloquium was the vast and interesting data on Palynology from various stratigraphic horizons of India including those which are oil bearing. This session commenced with seventh special talk by Dr. Chaya Sharma of Birbal Sahni Institute on "Palaeopalynology and its Applications" followed by a number of interesting papers on this aspect. Dr Kundal of Nagpur University delivered eighth special talk on "Genuiculate Corraline Algae from early Cretaceous to Oligocene of India".

In addition to the above there were important contributions on Bryozoa, Pteropods, calcareous nannofossils and vertebrate fossils.

A significant feature of this Colloquium and Symposium was the high quality of the presentations by a large number of young workers from various parts of the country.

The technical Sessions were followed by the valedictory function on 11th October which was presided by Prof. V. Sharma, President XIXICMS. The scientists while giving their impressions about the event paid rich tributes to Prof. M. S. Srinivasan by narrating their interactions with the "Living Legend". The Valedictory Session culminated with the unanimous resolution that the XX Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy will be held at the Department of Geology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

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