

Coordinator for these departments) to facilitate the offering of the multi-disciplinary courses by the departments jointly.

6. The need for the geoscience courses to have strong linkages with industry cannot be overstated. Experts from the industry should be persuaded to give short-term courses in the universities, which could be made use of a number of universities in a region. The central and state ministries of Water Resources, Environment, Agriculture, Mines and Geology, etc. as well as industries, should sponsor carefully-selected candidates to study short-term courses or M.Sc. in Natural Resources Management, with ear-marked specializations in selected universities. This way the sponsoring organizations could assure themselves of the steady supply of well-qualified candidates from among whom they could make their choice. The

syllabus for all competitive examinations involving geosciences (e.g. CSIR/UGC fellowships, Geologists' Examination, UPSC and PSCs tests, etc.) should reflect the proposed orientation.

It would take a lot of planning and hard work during the next 3 - 5 years to bring about the envisaged paradigm shift. It is not a question of whether we could afford to do this, but whether we can afford not to do this.

Many distinguished geoscientists have warmly endorsed the strategy and follow-up actions recommended in the consensus document, which is very heartening.

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[Editor's Note: The above consensus document may be read in conjunction with the note published in the Journal on "An Action Plan to make Geoscience Education in India Employment Oriented and Relevant" (Jour. Geol. Soc. India, v.62, no.4, pp.503-506) by the same author. Comments, suggestions and other alternatives on this note may be communicated directly to the author by email: uaswathanarayana@yahoo.com]

A NEW MODEL FOR THE ORIGIN OF BEDDED BARYTE DEPOSITS

Attention of the readers is drawn to a paper that has appeared in the Journal – *Geology* (October 2003, v.31, no.10, pp. 899-900) by Marta E. Torres and others, on a new mechanism for the genesis of ancient bedded baryte deposits. This is based on the analogy of modern baryte deposits at cold methane seeps on continental margins. The ancient deposits are supposed to reflect remobilization of baryte in sulfate-depleted, methane-rich sediments and transport of methane- and barium-enriched fluids by hydrotectonic processes. This new model explains the intertwined biogenic and hydrothermal scenarios satisfactorily and provides a consistent model for reconstructing the tectonic, hydrothermal and oceanographic conditions in the Palaeozoic. The implication of this model

is that the palaeozoic bedded barytes deposits represent not only large-scale venting of barium but also of methane affecting the then carbon cycle as well as the ancient climate.

The Mangampet Baryte Deposit in the Cuddapah District of A.P., in the volcano-sedimentary Pullampet Formation of the Nallamalai Group (middle to upper Proterozoic Cuddapah Supergroup), is one of the largest bedded baryte accumulations/deposits of the world. It would be of great interest to examine the genesis of this deposit in the context of the new model proposed by Marta E. Torres and co-workers.

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