

CURRENT TRENDS IN RESEARCH ON QUATERNARY SEA-LEVEL CHANGES

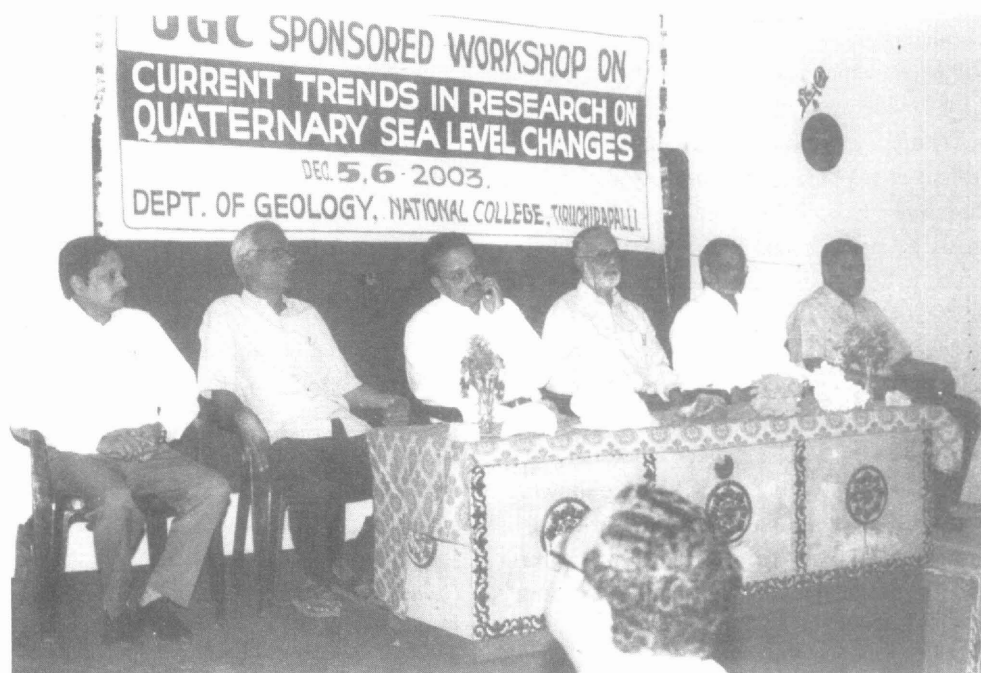
The UGC sponsored workshop on "Current trends in research on Quaternary sea level changes" was held in the Department of Geology, National College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu during 5-6 December 2003. Geologists, students, teachers, and research scholars from different universities and organizations attended the workshop. Dr. M. Nagarajan, Principal, National College, Tiruchirapalli while presiding over the function cautioned about the increasing marine pollution and the danger faced by developing nations due to rapid environmental degradation. In his inaugural address, Dr. G. Victor Rajamanickam, Professor and Head, Department of Disaster Management, SASTRA, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu called upon earth scientists to give importance to research on Sedimentology, Palaeontology and Tectonics of coastal regions. He also stressed the importance of precautions to be taken along the coastal tract for mitigating annual monsoon-related cyclonic impact.

Dr. Rajiv Nigam of the Geological Oceanography Division, NIO, Goa spoke about the Global warming and sea level changes and the role of NIO in the marine science studies of the country. Earlier the Co-ordinator of the workshop Dr. K. Anbarasu, Reader, Department of Geology welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Satyamurthy, Head, Department of Geology proposed vote of thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by scientific sessions. Dr. K. Anbarasu delivered a lecture on the topic of Quaternary sea level changes - An Introduction. He spoke at length about the historical background, indicators and measurement, dating, global warming and sea level changes during the Holocene.

Dr. Rajiv Nigam delivered a lecture on Micro-palaeontological techniques in sea level studies explaining the methods of determining sea level using Foraminifers. Many case studies were presented. It was followed by a lecture on geomorphic indicators of sea level changes by Dr. A.S.K. Nair, Scientist, CESS, Trivandrum. He spoke on the application and limitations of coastal geomorphology in sea level determination and geomorphic indicators with examples from the Kerala coast. Dr. Praveen Henriques, of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai delivered a lecture on implications of Holocene sea level rise. He pointed out various effect of sea level rise if the present glaciers melt due to global warming.

On the second day Dr. R. Baskaran of the Department of Geology, National College, Tiruchirapalli delivered a lecture on indicators of sea level changes listing the physical, biological, geomorphological, geological and archaeological features that help as guides in the field to determine the changes in sea level. It was followed by a lecture on



Dignitaries at the inaugural session of the workshop.

tectonism and sea level delivered by Dr. Suresh of the Department of Geology, Mangalore University. The tectonic features of the west coast and their relation to the changing sea level were lucidly presented by him. The session came to end with a lecture on Quaternary sea level changes along the west coast of India delivered by Dr. Purnachandra Rao of NIO, Goa. Sea level changes in the west coast and radiocarbon dating of samples were the highlights of his lecture. Dr. N. Chandrasekar, Prof. and Head, Department of Placer Mining, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli spoke about corals and sea level. He explained about the general pattern of coral growth in relation to sea level, varieties of corals, the use of living and dead corals in sea level studies etc with examples from Rameshwaram and Mandapam region of Tamil Nadu. A lecture on Archeological indicators of sea level changes with case

studies was delivered by Dr. Hema Achyuthan of the Department of Geology, Anna University, Chennai.

The valedictory function was held at the end of the scientific session. Dr. P.R. Srinivasan, Vice-Principal, National College, Tiruchirapalli presided over the meeting. Dr. N. Chandrasekar delivered the valedictory address and distributed certificates to the participants. Dr. S. Sathyamurthy, Head, Department of Geology, National College welcomed the gatherings and Dr. K. Anbarasu, Co-ordinator of the workshop proposed a vote of thanks.

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K. ANBARASU

UNESCO REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON RECENT ADVANCES IN EARTH OBSERVATION FOR GEO-RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The UNESCO sponsored training program on 'Recent Advances in Earth Observation for Geo-resources Management', was conducted at the Department of Geology, Anna University, Chennai between 19-25th November 2003 under the guidance of the course co-ordinator, Dr. Sanjeevi.

There were 27 participants, out of whom, three were from Sri Lankan Universities and one was from the Maldives water resources department. Participants from India represented the cross section of scientific community involving people from state Public Works Departments, The



The inaugural session (L to R): Prof. Elango, HOD, Geology, Anna University, Shri D. Jayakumar, Minister for Law, Information Technology and Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Ramprabhu, Registrar, Anna 'Varsity' and Dr. S. Sanjeevi, Course Coordinator of the UNESCO programme.