

## 19<sup>th</sup> WORLD MINING CONGRESS AND EXPO-2003: A REPORT

Indian Mineral Industry was privileged to host the 19<sup>th</sup> World Mining Congress and Expo- 2003 in New Delhi from 1-5 November, 2003. This is the second time that New Delhi was hosting the Congress, the last one being the 12<sup>th</sup> World Mining Congress in 1984.

The 19<sup>th</sup> World Mining Congress marked the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Mining Congress, a voluntary, non- political NGO with a membership encompassing some 51 mineral-producing nations. Over the years, since inception, the World Mining Congress has served as an effective platform for periodic exchange of information on mining sciences, engineering, exploration, addressing new frontiers of technology, environmental protection, and work safety for the global community of miners.

The 19<sup>th</sup> WMC and Expo 2003 was inaugurated on November 1<sup>st</sup> by the President of the Republic of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. In his inaugural address, the President outlined his Vision for the Mining Industry. He urged global exploration and mining experts to focus on making mines accident free and combat fires in Jharia Coal Field with innovative solutions. We need to apply legislative, promotional and operational measures to improve safety in mines, said Dr. Kalam. He exhorted the organizers to set up a website on ways to improve safety before the next Congress, to be held in Iran in 2005. He stressed the need for greater focus on investment in research and development, in clean coal technology, combined cycle power generation and other new technologies in a time-bound manner. All these will have a bearing on the choice of technology of the future for safe, pollution free and smart mining. We also need to expand the knowledge of base and noble metals for future applications said Dr. Kalam. At the current rate of consumption of minerals, Dr. Kalam was of the view that as in the case of water, for which man will increasingly have to turn to desalination of seawater, a time may come when humanity may need to bring minerals from other planets. The president urged the Indian Mining Industry to expand the scope of our contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) from the existing level to over 10 percent.

The Inaugural Ceremony was also attended by Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri. Vijai Kapoor, Shri. K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt. of India and also the President of the 19<sup>th</sup> WMC, Shri. Kariya Munda, Union Minister of Coal, Shri Ramesh Bais, Minister of State for Mines, Mr. E. Jahangiri, Minister of Mines, Govt. of Iran, Mr. E Cizak, Chairman of International Organising

Committee of WMC, Mr. G. L. Rao, President of the Institution of Engineers [India], and Prof. A.K. Ghose, Chairman of 19<sup>th</sup> WMC & Expo 2003.

The main theme of the congress-“Mining in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- *Quo Vadis*” was addressed by the 13 Keynote speeches from the doyens of the global industry. In all, about 157 papers from 32 countries were presented during the Congress on the following sub-themes: Sustainable Mineral Development; Mineral Exploration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Strategies & Techniques; Mining Technology for surface and Underground Mining – Evolving Trends; Mines of the Future for Cleaner Mining; New Technologies for Mineral Processing; Extra-Terrestrial & Deep Sea Mining – Trends & Forecasts; Health and Safety Issues; Environmental Issues – Challenges and Opportunities; Social License for Mining – Constructive Engagement and Minerals and Raw Materials.

The 19<sup>th</sup> World Mining Expo-2003, hosted along with the 19<sup>th</sup> World Mining Congress, had a significant participation from overseas and covered over 9000 sq. m of exhibition space in Pragati Maidan, Delhi. The Expo showcased the state-of-the-art in mining technology. Expo Award function was conducted on 4.11.2003 where the Chief Guest was Shri. Ramesh Bais, Minister of State of Mines, Govt of India, while Shri Laxmi Chand, Additional Secretary [Coal], Govt. of India and Shri. C.D. Arha, Secretary [Mines] Govt. of India were the guest of honour.

About 1500 delegates attended the 19<sup>th</sup> WMC, representing a cross section of the earth science community of the globe. Major foreign high level delegations were from China, Australia, Germany, Congo, Ghana, Iran, Poland, Mozambique, South Africa, UK, USA, Romania, Mexico and Ukraine.

Padma Vibhushan Sonal Mansingh and her troupe thrilled the delegates with a performance of Odissi dance and a specially choreographed drama on the life of miners, which was highly appreciated by all the delegates. Other cultural evenings synthesized the very best of Indian traditional dances. During the 19<sup>th</sup> WMC, debates, deliberations and exchange of views were held on the advancement of mineral exploration, mining science and technology, mineral beneficiation, equipment manufacturing, mineral utilisation, environmental up-gradation, infra-structural development, R&D activities etc.

At the Round Table chaired by Prof. A.K. Ghose, the Congress Declaration was discussed and endorsed. The

Valedictory Session was chaired by the Sri. K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt. of India who said that the country should look for strategic alliances with carefully planned imports and selected foreign investment aimed at technological upgradation of the mining sector. The Falun Lamp of the WMC was handed over to the delegates of Iran who will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress at Teheran in Nov 2005. The Congress Declaration highlights the need to focus on sustainable mining in harmony with environmental

concerns and the structural changes needed in the mining industry to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*The Institution of Engineers (India)* AJOY. K. GHOSE  
Kolkata - 700020  
*Email: intl@ieindia.org*

*Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd.* PRABHAKAR SANGURMATH  
Hutti - 584 115, Karnataka

### GROUP MONITORING AND PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF DST AT BANARAS

The 15<sup>th</sup> Group Monitoring Meeting (GMM) and 10<sup>th</sup> Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India was held at the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University during 4-6 December, 2003. About 50 distinguished scientists from different organizations and universities attended this meeting. The meeting was coordinated by Dr. H. B. Srivastava of the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The three day meeting began with a popular lecture entitled "Dinosaurs of India: Dead but Alive" by Prof. Ashok Sahni of the Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Chandigarh. Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Professor Emeritus of Banaras Hindu University presided over the function. The

lecture was attended by about 400 children from different schools of the city beside the university community. The lecture evoked great excitement amongst the students who raised several questions to Prof. Sahni on different aspects of dinosaurs. To these school boys and girls the narration and commentary on dinosaurs by Prof. Sahni surpassed the Jurassic Park movie. Thus the keen interest of the school children in the geological history clearly demonstrates the need for improved geological education at school and college level.

The inauguration was held in the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2003. Dr. H. B. Srivastava welcomed the PAC members, expert members, scientists and guests. Prof. M. Joshi Head Department of Geology, BHU apprised the



Inaugural session of the DST meetings at BHU, Varanasi.