

NOTES

ASIA OCEANIA GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY'S FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The newly formed Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) had its first inaugural annual meeting at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore during 5-9 June, 2004. The main focus of this meeting was on the following disciplines, covered in 87 scientific sessions:

- 1 Solid Earth (SE)
- 2 Ocean and Atmosphere (OA)
- 3 Space Physics and Planetary Sciences (SP)
- 4 Natural Hazards (NH)
- 5 Interdisciplinary Working Groups (IWGs)
- 6 Hydrology and Water Resources (HW)

The main emphasis of AOGS has been to evolve a common platform for active scientific interaction among the geoscientists of the Asia-Oceania region. About 1000 delegates participated in this AOGS inaugural annual meeting, 70% of the over 1000 delegates at the conference were from Japan, China, India and southeast Asian region.

In addition to the above mentioned scientific themes, Japan Drilling Earth Science Consortium (JDESC) and Japan Marine Research Institute (JAMSTEK) conducted a special session on the recent developments in Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). Under the umbrella of IODP three research vessels will be operated for the future ocean drilling program. In this session main emphasis was laid on the newly built Japanese Research Vessel

CHIKYO, which will have a capability to drill up to about 7 km below the sea floor. This capability may allow drilling up to the basement in most of the continental margins. Results flowing from *CHIKYO* will have immense bearing in understanding the structure, tectonics and geological evolution of both active and passive continental margins around the world. In order to access this high technology drilling facility and to employ it in potentially interesting areas, India needs to be actively associated with this program.

A new council of AOGS was constituted during the conference, in the new council three positions were obtained by distinguished Indian delegates. Dr S R Shetye, Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa was elected as President of Oceans and Atmosphere Section. Dr V P Dimiri, Director, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Prof R B Singh, Delhi University, Delhi were elected as Secretaries of Solid Earth and Hydrology sections, respectively.

The 2nd Annual Meeting of AOGS will be held during June 20-24, 2005 in Singapore. We urge that larger number of Indian scientists should take part in the next meeting.

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PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

The 1991 issue of the book on the Physical Geology of India by Sri S M Mathur and published by the National Book Trust, India, A-5, Green Park, New Delhi, 110016, has been reviewed in an earlier issue of the Journal of the Geological Society of India (v 42, p 206, 1993). According to the author the present second edition has been necessitated because a lot of new information has been brought to light on different features in India and also fresh data generated on some. As per the admission of the author himself, though Antarctica is not a part of the Indian territory, it has geology very much akin to ours and our efforts to set

up stations on that icy continent and information gathered there needed to be highlighted. The other one on which a detailed account is presented is on Seismicity and Earthquakes in India (Chapter 9, pp 142-169), since during the last decade the country has experienced a few devastating earthquakes in Latur, Kutch and some parts of Himalaya. It may, however, be mentioned that subsequent to the publication of the map of Seismic Zones of India (Map VIII, facing page 143) by the erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (ISI), there has been a revision of the Seismic Zones. Earlier map of Seismic Zones of India (Map VIII)