

# 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)

included 5 seismic zones, I to V. However, in the present revised edition by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS, 2002), it has only 4 Seismic Zones, the earlier ISI zone of I is now included in the BIS zone of II. This has been done in order not to disturb the intensity ranges already given for the later zones of III, IV and V. There is no Seismic Zone I now.

The present edition of 222 pages is very reasonably priced at Rs 65/- and is worth possessing by students of earth science in the country.

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## INDIAN GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS

Thanks to quizzes being conducted at different levels both in educational institutions and almost all television channels all the year round, the need for books on all types of information has tremendously increased. This has led to publications not only on General Knowledge, but also in specific fields like history, literature, economics, mathematics, biology, sports etc. The list is endless.

'Indian Geographical Facts' by Sri S M Mathur, formerly of the Geological Survey of India and published by Rupa & Co (7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110 002, 2003, 139p, Price Rs 150/-) is a collection of

facts and figures essentially geographical, on India. It departs from the usual in containing some information on changed names of places, twin cities, biosphere reserves, world heritage sites etc. This publication would naturally be of considerable help to refer to important information on India in particular, culled out from various publications, not easily accessible to all.

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## G. PARTHASARATHY HONOURED

Dr G Parthasarathy of National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Fellow of the Geological Society of India has been awarded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Award for the year 2003 for his outstanding contributions in the field of 'Earth and Planetary Sciences' and more specifically for his studies on 'electrical conductivity and thermal stability of minerals at high pressures and for his pioneering work on silica polymorphs'.

It is gratifying to note that the interdisciplinary work of Dr Parthasarathy straddling Mineralogy and Physics has found recognition, which we hope will spur him and his team to further intensified work in this important area of study.

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