

38th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF INDIAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION AT VISAKHAPATNAM

The 38th Annual Convention of Indian Geophysical Union (IGU), Hyderabad was held from 18th - 20th Dec., 2001 at Visakhapatnam. The inaugural function was held on 18th Dec., 2001 and was attended by nearly 250 delegates of earth and ocean sciences, from all over the country. Apart from local dignitaries, scientists of different institutions like GSI, ONGC, NSTL, NRSA, DST, DOD, NSDRRC, CMFRI, AMD, NIO, NGRI, IIG and IIT's were present.

The focal theme of the convention was on "Natural Hazards and Disaster Management: Role of Earth System Scientists". Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function and the other dignitaries included Dr. Ehrlich Desa, Director, NIO and President, IGU, Dr. K.S.R. Murthy, Local Convener, Dr. B.M. Reddy and Dr. G.S. Lakhina, Vice-Presidents of IGU and Dr. N. Venkateswarlu, Secretary of IGU. Nearly 150 research papers including oral and poster sessions were presented during the three-day convention both on the focal theme and other related aspects such as:

1. Solid Earth Geophysics
2. Electromagnetic Imaging of the Crust

3. Marine Geology and Geophysics of Continental Margin, Oceanic Basins
4. Ridge Processes
5. Atmospheric, Space and Planetary Sciences

Among the significant events of the year's convention was the first H.N. Siddiquie Memorial Lecture, given on the inaugural day by Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, Secretary, DOD, New Delhi. The topic was "How long Triggered Earthquakes will continue in Koyna, India". The website of the Indian Geophysical Union, <http://www.iguonline.org> which was designed at the Regional Centre, National Institute of Oceanography was released by Dr. B.M. Reddy, Vice-President, IGU to the earth and ocean science community at the inaugural function on 18th Dec 2001. The design of the website was appreciated by all IGU delegates, and hoped that it would cover latest events in earth sciences in future.

Apart from the main sessions on earth sciences, two special lectures were also organized by the IGU, one on 18th and the other on the 19th December.

Prince Mukhramjah Lecture: given by Dr. R.N. Singh, Director, National Environmental Engineering Research



Dr. H.K. Gupta, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development releasing the Abstracts Volume of the 38th Annual Convention of the IGU at Visakhapatnam

Institute (NEERI), Nagpur on "Modelling Earth System Complexities".

Prof. K.R. Ramanathan Memorial Lecture: given by Dr. G.B. Pant, Director, IITM, Pune on "Climate Changes".

During this year's convention following awards were given to earth scientists with proven capabilities:

The **IGU Decennial Award** to Dr. S.M. Naqvi, Former Director of NGRI, Hyderabad.

The **Krishnan Medal to Young Scientists** to Dr. Pulak Sengupta, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Dr. Ehrlich Desa, President of IGU at the inaugural function, presented the awardees with medals.

The local organizing committee conducted essay writing competition for children of schools and junior colleges on topics related to natural hazards (cyclones and earthquakes). Prof. G.S. Lakhina, Vice-President of IGU, presented the winners of these competitions with mementos and certificates at the inaugural function. In addition,

Prof. Jagdev Singh merit awards were also presented to earth science students of different universities.

An exhibition of different earth and ocean science equipments/capabilities/state of art technology was organized at the venue during the convention which attracted large number of visitors.

During the convention, several interesting papers were presented on the focal theme, particularly related to Gujarat, Koyna earthquakes, Orissa super cyclone, aspects such as ridge processes, geodynamics of eastern and western continental margin, electromagnetic imaging of crust and also on ocean process modelling. Abstracts volume (priced at Rs.150/-) is available with Dr. N. Venkateswarlu, Secretary, Indian Geophysical Union, c/o NGRI, Uppal Road, Hyderabad - 500007. **Email:** nandula@eth.net

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K.S.R. MURTHY
Convenor, IGU

NEWS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY, REGIONAL CENTRE, VISAKHAPATNAM

Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, Secretary, Department of Ocean Development (DOD), New Delhi, laid the foundation stone for the proposed permanent building of Regional Centre of National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), in the 650 sq.yds of site in Kirlampudi Layout of Andhra University Campus, Visakhapatnam on 18-12-2001. The function was presided over by Prof. J.M. Naidu, Registrar, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and attended by Dr. Ehrlich Desa, Director, NIO, Goa and Dr. K.S.R. Murthy, Scientist-in-Charge of NIO, Regional Centre, Visakhapatnam and several scientists of NIO, NGRI, GSI, NSTL, NSDR, DS, NRSA, IIG, CMFRI, etc., and eminent faculty members of earth and ocean sciences of Andhra University.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. J.M. Naidu, Registrar assured all the help and co-operation from Andhra University to NIO during and after the construction of the building. He appreciated the close links NIO has established with the University faculty.

Dr. Ehrlich Desa, Director, NIO, Goa felt that it is time that Regional Centre of NIO at Visakhapatnam should have its own building. He expressed that the scientists of NIO, Visakhapatnam would continue their efforts in R&D and

consultancy services in the east coast and Bengal Fan.

Dr. K.S.R. Murthy, Scientist-in-Charge of the Centre explained the efforts made so far to get this site allotted, and also expressed his gratefulness to Registrar, A.U., for his help in allotting this site. He earnestly requested the University to allot more area adjacent to the present site, so that a reasonably spacious office building could be erected which would be useful for collaborative research in ocean sciences between NIO and A.U. He further requested Secretary, DOD, to make use of the Centre's capabilities in different projects of DOD.

Dr. Harsh K. Gupta praised the generous assistance of the Andhra Pradesh government in allotment of space for earth and ocean science institutions in the State. He wished that the Regional Centre would be able to carry forward multidisciplinary ocean research with its small but dedicated group. He assured to involve this group in National Projects of DOD.

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