

NOTES

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CHALLENGES IN GEO-EXPLORATION IN THE MILLENNIUM 2000

The South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (Hyderabad Chapter) and the Department of Geology, Post-graduate College of Science (Saifabad), Osmania University, Hyderabad organized a two-day seminar on "Challenges in Geo-exploration in the Millennium 2000". About 150 delegates participated in the seminar from various organizations/universities. Out of 35 papers included in abstract volume, 20 papers were presented in four sessions. S.C. Srivastava emphasized the role of SAAEG in the mineral sector and highlighted the need for use of modern technologies in the development of mineral sector in India. S.K. Mazumder inaugurated the seminar, M.K. Benjamin and S.S. Yalamarty presented keynote papers.

The seminar proceedings were divided into four sessions. Twenty papers were presented and a souvenir containing 35 papers was released on this occasion. In the end, a panel discussion was organized with V.L.S. Bheemashankaram, P.K. Basu, S.C. Srivastava, K. Sreenivasachari, M.N. Reddy, Y.S. Baburao, D. Narsingrao, and R. Pavanaguru forming the panel. Various issues pertaining to the mineral sector were deliberated in detail and in the end the following recommendations were made at the seminar:

1. Problems in gaining access to basic data on the mineral areas should be released by the Central and State Governments.
2. New discoveries are possible only with multi-disciplinary integrated approach to exploration. The first step in this direction is carrying out large-scale aerial geophysical surveys. Speedy approval for aerial flying from DGCA/MOD is required to expedite exploration.
3. Analytical facility should be strengthened and the concept of a referee laboratory should be evolved for purposes of mineral exploration. NGRI may take a lead in this direction.
4. The procedure for granting permission to take up exploration in an area is very cumbersome and time-

consuming. The concept of a single window clearance should be implemented soon.

5. Resource classification system needs to be brought at par with the UNFC system. The implementation of the same may start from national agencies responsible for maintaining the National Mineral Inventory.
6. The investment in the mineral sector in India has been below expectations and not commensurate with the geological prospectivity of the sub-continent. Efforts to boost exploration programmes by intensive and extensive multi-disciplinary exploration inputs should be strengthened.
7. Elaborate exercise on infrastructure development should be undertaken to facilitate exploitation of resources in the shortest possible time. Identification of priorities both by the Central and State Governments is to be done on urgent basis.
8. In the mineral sector, there is a need to accelerate research for which sponsored projects should be taken up having a proper linkage between industry, universities and R & D institutions.
9. GOI announced its new mineral policy and brought in considerable changes in acts, rules and regulations, delegation of power to State governments and amendments relating to mining plans. This policy created a level playing field for both the private and public sectors. Further delegation through discussions is recommended for speeding up exploration.
10. In view of the changed employment opportunities due to globalization, it may be necessary to introduce special courses in various universities to meet the long term, medium term, and short-term requirements of the industry. The curriculum of studies at the university level needs to be revised to be in tune with present day requirements and this must be addressed as a national problem.

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