

He also introduced the basic instruments that are used in environmental magnetic studies. A brief account was also given of sample collection, preservation and storage procedures. K.B. Vijaya Kumar and R. Shankar also gave lectures on the central theme. The afternoon sessions were devoted to laboratory work where hands-on experience was provided to participants.

The publication titled "Environmental Magnetism: A

Practical Guide" by J. Walden, F. Oldfield and J. Smith formed the valuable course material.

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WORKSHOP ON LIFE

The interdisciplinary "Workshop on Life" was one of the scientific meetings before the Millennium World Meeting of University Professors in Rome. It was held on September 3-8, 2000 at Modena, Italy and organized by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the Accademia Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, the (Italian) Ministry of Universities (MURST) and National Research Council (CNR).

The workshop consisted of 23 keynote lectures, 42 short communications and two round table discussions, carrying many of the exciting scientific, philosophical, moral and religious aspects of life on the earth or even its possibilities elsewhere in the universe. 91 participants from 25 countries delivered lectures.

The participants represented a wide variety of scientific expertise, ranging from sub-molecular aspects of biomolecules and the fundamental physical features of chirality (the inherent molecular asymmetry of most life-forming molecules), to instrumentation problems of searching for life on other planets like Mars and Europa (Jupiter's satellite) to social, religious and moral concerns.

Deep interrelations between the definition, origin(s) and social-moral-religious values of life have been evaluated and analysed. The lectures and discussions contributed significantly to get a clear picture of possible definition of life, to mathematical and chemical description of minimal models for living systems, as well as limits and development of molecularly coded information required for life.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the lecture by C. de Duve (Bruxelles) analyzing the current model of prebiological and early evolution.

Most of the philosophical contributions were dedicated to comparison between the religious and scientific visions of life. Many representatives of various religions were present. All the talks have tried to put in evidence for continuity between the two different approaches to knowledge.

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NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN MINERAL EXPLORATION, MINING AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A two-day national workshop was organized jointly by the South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (SAAEG, India Region) and the Government Engineering College at Raipur on 23rd and 24th March, 2001. The workshop was inaugurated by Satyanarayan Sharma, Minister of Education, Chhattisgarh State who exhorted the scientists and technocrats to develop a practical work plan

for eradication of poverty by employing modern technology for exploration of our rich mineral resources. R.C. Jain pleaded for optimal use of computers in planning and programming the technological education in the State. K.L. Rai was the convener of the workshop. S.K. Sarkar in the valedictory address hoped that the geoscientists shall optimally utilize computer techniques to ensure proper