

adopted by ATCM Whereas, the Working Group on Legal and Institutional matters addressed a number of important issues including, Review of Measures on the subject of Area Protection and Management, Review of Annexure II to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System, Liability – Implementation of Decision I of 2005, Biological Prospecting in the Antarctic Treaty Area and a number of other issues and put forth four decisions pertaining to review of the status of measures relating to area protection and management and the matters relating to the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, which were adopted by the ATCM

While the second week was devoted to Antarctic Tourism and Operational Matters of the Antarctic Treaty System For example, the Tourism Working Group, after a detailed discussion, was able to agree upon two important Resolutions – one concerning ship-based tourism in the Antarctic Treaty Area, and the second associated with the issue related to Permanent Land Based infrastructures for tourism in Antarctica The Working Group recommended that Parties consistent with their National Laws, should discourage to authorize tour operators that use vessels carrying more than five hundred passengers from making any landings in Antarctica, rather encourage tour operators to coordinate with each other such that not more than one tourist vessel is at a landing site at any one time, restrict the number of passengers on shore at any one time to hundred or fewer, unless otherwise specified in applicable ATCM Measures or Resolutions and maintain a minimum 1:20 guide-to-passenger ratio while ashore, unless otherwise specified in applicable Measures or Resolutions

On the other hand, Working Group on Operational matters, amongst other issues considered the important aspects of safety and operation in Antarctica, the activities/projects undertaken by various parties during the International Polar Year covering a wide areas of science, international collaboration on data management, education, outreach and communication activities, outcome of the inspections of the infrastructure facilities of the Antarctic Programme carried out by various

designated agencies, tourist vessels, the science issues particularly with reference to scientific cooperation and facilitation programmes of the Parties/NGOs, operation and educational issues, exchange of information, etc , and has brought out a number of useful measures, decisions and resolutions The ATCM Passed a resolution to support long-term monitoring and sustained observations of the Antarctic environment and the associated data management as a primary legacy of the International Polar Year, to enable the detection, and underpin the understanding and forecasting of the impacts of the environmental and climate change

A special lecture on “Climate Change” by Prof Chris Rapley, Director of the British Antarctic Survey and the President of SCAR was organized on the occasion of ATCM XXX by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) which was very informative on global warming and climate change and spelt out the importance of Antarctic research in continuous monitoring of climate variations

After two weeks long meetings the 30th ATCM adopted 3 Measures, 5 Resolutions and 4 Decisions covering following issues

- Antarctic Historic Sites and Monuments – Monument to the Antarctic Treaty,
- Antarctic Protected Areas – Revised Management Plans,
- Antarctic Specially Managed Areas – Designations and Management Plans,
- Conservation of Southern Giant Petrel,
- Site Guidelines for Visitors to Antarctica,
- Long-term Scientific Monitoring and sustained environmental observation in Antarctica, etc

The historic two-week long 30th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was concluded on the 11th May, 2007 Shri Pranab Mukerjee, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs addressed the delegates in the closing session The next 31st ATCM is scheduled at Kiev in Ukraine in 2008 India look forward to mutual cooperation in the fields of Antarctic Governance and its scientific exploration as well as in common effort in efficiently tackling the global climate change Hosting 30th ATCM is indeed a testimony to India's

firm commitment to Antarctic Treaty and preservation of the fragile ecosystem of Antarctica

NCAOR, Goa

N KHARE

Email nkhare45@gmail.com

Fourth International Meeting of Asia-Oceania Geoscience Society

The 4th Annual meeting of the Asia-Oceania Geosciences Society-2007 (AOGS 2007) was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand during 30 July 2007 to 4 August, 2007

The AOGS provided a venue for scientists from various disciplines to present their research outputs and develop projects for greater aspects of fundamental as well as applied researchers The AOGS offered important blends of reputed national and international scientists The knowledge gathered by the scientists would be immensely helpful by properly framing science policy, establishing institutional mechanisms and capacities in scientific interpretation, data translation and facilitating user uptake of local application

The entire programme was subdivided into following seven broad domains namely Atmospheric Sciences, Hydrological Sciences, Interdisciplinary Working Group, Ocean Sciences, Planetary Sciences, Solid Earth and Solar Terrestrial Different scientists all over the world assembled in the AOGS Their participation was mainly related to any of the seven domains mentioned above Scientists, faculty members and research scholars of several organizations of India viz University of Calcutta, National Geophysical Research Institute, National Institute of Oceanography, Indian Institute of Technology etc participated in the AOGS meet

Dept of Geology

JOYTISANKAR RAY,

Univ of Calcutta

ABHISHEK SAHA and

Kolkata

SAMPA HAZRA

Email jsray65@hotmail.com

AGU Fall Meeting 2007

The Fall meeting of the American

Geophysical Union (AGU) was held in San Francisco, USA during 10-14 December 2007. The Fall meeting provides an opportunity for researchers, teachers, students and consultants from across the world to present and review the latest issues affecting the Earth, the planets and their environments in space. Several technical sessions comprising those in Atmospheric Sciences, Atmospheric and Space Electricity, Biogeosciences, Cryosphere, Earth and Space Science Informatics, Education and Human Resources, Geodesy, Geomagnetism and Palaeomagnetism, Global Environmental Change, Hydrology, Mineral and Rock Physics, Near-Surface Geophysics, Nonlinear Geophysics, Ocean Sciences, Palaeoceanography and Palaeoclimatology, Planetary Sciences, Seismology, SPA-Aeronomy, SPA-Solar and Heliospheric Physics, SPA-Magnetospheric Physics, Study of the Earth's Deep Interior Tectonophysics, Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology were held. The author of this report was invited to present his paper on "Variability of Indian Monsoon in the Holocene" in the Palaeoceanography and Palaeoclimatology (PP) session.

This PP group was considered as a major focused group at the meeting. Number of thought provoking lectures were delivered by the academician and researchers from different parts of the world. Interesting discussion was made by the participants on the variation on the monsoonal condition in North America, Western Africa, India, Australia etc. A major discussion was focused on the use of different proxies for e.g. pollen and spores, tree rings, stable isotope ratios of microscopic organisms for palaeoclimatic studies.

The role of tropical oceans in general and Indonesian through flow in particular on global climatic variability attracted the attention of a large number of scientists. Papers were presented on closing and opening of this seaway on global climate. Results suggested the presence or absence of a proto-warm pool in the Western Equatorial Pacific, caused by the progressive tectonic constriction of the Indonesian Seaway and modulated by sea level fluctuations, created El Niño and La Niña events respectively. These results were

supported by the general antithetical relationship observed between carbonate productivity and preservation records both from Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Some very good questions were raised on the use of various stable isotopes and application of trace element proxies for interpreting the past climate like the use of ^{44}Ca as a proxy for Palaeoceanography and Palaeoclimatology.

PRL, Ahmedabad ASHUTOSH K SINGH
Email ashugeobhu2003@yahoo.co.in

Workshop on Perspectives on Basin Basalt and Bumps: Kerala-Konkan Basin, India, 6-7 January 2008

Reliance Industries Limited organized a workshop on "Perspectives on Basin Basalt and Bumps" Kerala-Konkan Basin, India from 6th to 7th January, 2008 at Navi Mumbai.

The participants were welcomed by Dr Rabi Bastia, Senior Vice President, Exploration Reliance Industries Limited. In his inaugural address he emphasized the need to integrate all data, assimilate ideas and break the myth that Kerala-Konkan basin is not a very favourable hydrocarbon habitat in the western continental margin of India. Formations from Jurassic to Cretaceous, rift cycles, hotspots, passive volcanic margins, tectonic elements of the west coast margin and their importance was explained.

Four Technical Sessions were conducted at the Park, Belapur, Navi Mumbai on the 7th January. The first session started with an overview of Kerala-Konkan Basin and objective of workshop by Dr Rabi Bastia, and stressing the importance of sub-basalt bumps and images. Dr Michal Nemcok presented details of crustal types, structural architecture and plate configuration study of the west coast of India explaining the purpose and task plan. Colin Reeves made a presentation of a very large pre-trap sedimentary province off India's west coast by geodynamic modelling. Wilbert Pannala made a succinct presentation on Post-Gondwana tectonics and sedimentation in and around Sri Lanka. Thermo-tectonic consequences of plume

traces over the Indian lithosphere and some possible implications was the talk of U Raval. K T Vidyadharan made a brief presentation on the onland and offshore geology of west coast touching aspects of geology of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa and tectonic elements. Details of south Kerala Sedimentary Basin was also presented. D C Srivastava made a presentation on palaeostress from fault slip data: its need and authenticity. Hetu Seth made a presentation on Deccan volcanics around Mumbai. Structure and isostatic compensation of the Comorin Ridge of North Central Indian Ocean was dealt by K S Krishna. Mechanism of rifting and rheological control in the formation of Konkan-Kerala basin, based on gravity and seismic data was presented by M Radhakrishna T. Harnarayana made a presentation on the importance and significance of electromagnetic acquisition in complex geologic terrains with special reference to volcanic zones/overthrust zones citing case histories from Saurashtra, Gulf of Kutch, Assam-Arakan Yoma and recommended magneto-telluric techniques for oil exploration. Mita Rajaram made an excellent presentation on the utility of geopotential data for study of structure and tectonics of India and its contiguous region citing examples from east coast, west coast and Andaman thrust zone. Stephan Hallinan made a presentation on magneto-tellurics in sub-basalt exploration explaining the advantages and limitations. S Planke made an excellent presentation on volcano-stratigraphy and seismic expressions. Sujatha Venkataraman also made an excellent presentation on India Span survey in Kerala-Konkan Basin and showed huge thickness of sediments above traps explaining the depth of sediments as phenomenal. Bjoern Rommel made good presentation on sub-basalt exploration from FLARE and ISIMM to today's challenges.

Finally after the completion of day long technical sessions, Nathaniel, chief coordinator of Kerala-Konkan Basin, concluded the workshop giving a detailed summary of the proceedings and highlights of the various presentations made during the workshop. Summing up the results he emphasized the characteristics of good