

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **International Symposium on Carbon Management and Climate Change and Role of Applied Geochemistry in Mineral Exploration – V. Balaram, NGRI, Hyderabad; K.Surya Prakash Rao, ISAG, Hyderabad and Parijat Roy, NGRI, Hyderabad**

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad hosted a three day International Symposium on “Carbon Management and Climate Change and Role of Applied Geochemistry in Mineral Exploration” during 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, jointly in collaboration with the Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG), Hyderabad; Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC); National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC); Atomic Mineral Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Dr. A.K. Balyan, Director, HRD, ONGC, New Delhi (Patron), Shri Rana Som, Chairman & Managing Director, NMDC (Chief Guest), Dr. V.P. Dimri, Director NGRI, (Patron), Prof. R.D. Schuiling, University of Utrecht, Netherlands (Guest of Honour), Dr. K.K. Dwivedy, Former Director, AMD (Chairman, Organising Committee) Prof. K. Surya Prakash Rao, (Convener, Organising Committee), and Dr. V. Balaram, Convener, (NGRI) were present in the inaugural function.

Dr. A.K. Balyan released the Souvenir Volume and Shri Rana Som, released the Abstract Volume of the international symposium.

Shri Rana Som, in his inaugural address appreciated the efforts of the ISAG and NGRI for holding this very important symposium in this country when the whole world is intensely debating on climate change and its effects on the ecological system of the earth. He urged the scientists to come out with proper management system for CO<sub>2</sub>. He also pointed out the need for self consciousness among the citizens to save mother earth from harmful emissions.

Dr. V.P. Dimri, in his welcome address, explained about various R&D activities going on at NGRI on aspects such as CO<sub>2</sub>

capture and storage, role of CO<sub>2</sub> in enhanced oil recovery, alternative energy resources like geothermal energy studies and uranium and platinum group of element (PGE) exploration studies, etc, in association with different agencies.

Dr. A.K. Balyan in his address spoke about the steps taken by ONGC in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and other activities related to carbon management.

Dr K.K. Dwivedy briefed the audience about the activities of Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG). He also emphasised on the use of nuclear energy and other alternate sources of energy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and elaborated the future programmes of the Society.

Prof. K. Surya Prakash Rao in his speech highlighted about the international symposium and its importance in the present scenario for the country especially in view of the forthcoming international gathering of world leaders in Copenhagen but expressed his apprehension about the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference.

Prof. R.D. Schuiling, a renowned researcher in the field of climate change and global warming, in his address appreciated India's stand on global climate change and said that developed countries should take more responsibilities in combating climate

change and advised the developing nations to be ready with the mitigation strategies.

Dr. V. Balaram, Scientist-G, NGRI proposed vote of thanks for the inaugural function.

About 100 delegates from universities, research laboratories and mining companies from different parts of the country and abroad participated in this symposium.

The major themes included in this three day international event were Carbon Management and Climate Change and what role India should play in the global context in handling future challenges of Global Warming and CO<sub>2</sub> management. Also, this symposium very effectively emphasised the role of applied geochemistry in carbon management as well as in mineral exploration studies.

About 69 papers were deliberated in ten sessions under various themes in these three days. This three-day international symposium provided a platform for earth scientists to build up their understanding and to share new ideas in the areas of climate change, CO<sub>2</sub> management and mineral exploration.

The event ended up with a valedictory function on the third day and Dr. M. Sudhakar, Advisor, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), New Delhi was the chief



*From Left to Right: Dr. K.K. Dwivedy, Dr. A.K. Balyan, Dr. V.P. Dimri, Shri Rana Som, Prof. R.D. Schuiling, and Prof. K. Surya Prakash Rao.*

panelist on this occasion. Participants expressed their views for making of a consortium consisting of researchers from various research institutes, universities and industries and taking up an integrated approach in combating climate change. Delegates also emphasised on the need of creating awareness among the common man about the adverse effects of climate change

and the role of carbon sequestration and also that the Government of India should go ahead in launching such awareness programmes. Dr. M. Sudhakar suggested that ISAG/NGRI could possibly coordinate such a programme.

It was unanimously agreed that ISAG should submit a consolidated recommendation incorporating all the above points to

the concerned ministries and funding agencies. It has also been decided to intensify the activities on the exploration of strategic minerals at NGRI. NGRI on their part expressed their intention to intensify their activities for the Exploration of strategic minerals.