

7th Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) – P. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore
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The 7th Annual meeting of the AOGS was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, on 5-9 July, 2010. It was hosted by the Indian Geophysical Union, Hyderabad. About 1200 delegates from over 51 countries, including about 600 delegates from India participated in the Meeting. About 1500 oral and poster presentations were conducted during the 5 days on a variety of topics like Atmospheric Sciences, Hydro-logical Science, Ocean Science, Planetary Science, Solar and Terrestrial Science, and Solid Earth Science in parallel sessions.

A special symposium was also held to honor the founder President of AOGS Sir Ian Axford. A large number of guest and public lectures (18 nos.) were conducted. The entire conference proceedings may be accessed at www.asiaoceania.org.

Kulkarni of ISRO presented how satellite data has been used to monitor the size of the glaciers through time and the effects of global warming. Prithviraj and Sanjeeva Rao of DST reported the results of the National Programme on Himalayan Glaciology that began in 1986. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, MoES, highlighted the importance of oceans in terms of food security, mineral and energy resources besides influencing the earth's climate. Jai-ho OH from South Korea, projected the climate change in to the 21st century and the potential crisis postulated by him include food, energy and water. Dube of IIT Delhi highlighted the devastation caused by 'Storm surge' in the Bay of Bengal due to special conditions that prevail during cyclones and outlined the IIT prediction model that have been developed to forewarn about the cyclone track.

Yuan Tseh Lee, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Academia Sinica, Taipei delivered a lecture on 'Meeting the challenges of the 21st century'. He chronicled as how the world changed from simple, sun-biomass dependent pastoral society, when the earth used to be an 'infinitely large place'. However, after the industrial revolution, especially in the 20th century when population increased almost six fold from about 1.5 billion to over 6 billion, and with increased use of fossil fuels and generation of diverse wastes, the earth has become 'limited'. In this context Lee advocated the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind besides using larger quanta of nuclear energy as in the case of France, which obtains about 75% of its energy from nuclear sources. Lee cautioned that the 'developed countries pattern of growth is obviously are not the ideal models for the 'not yet developed' countries to emulate'.

V.P. Dimri, NGRI and Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute, spoke on 'Analysis and modeling of complexity in earth system using fractals' and dealt on its usefulness in forecasting extreme events and hazard assessment techniques.

As part of AOGS's outreach programme to educate and sensitize school students on current challenges, public lectures in leading schools of Hyderabad were delivered by C.B.S.Dutt of ISRO (Global warming and climate change), Francis Pavanathara of INCOIS (Role of oceans in global warming), Thamban Meloth of NCAOR (Climate changes in Antarctica), Randy Gladstone of Southwest Research Institute (The first mission to Pluto) besides others. A book on 'Hailstorm', written by Prabhat Kumar, was also released by the President of AOGS Dong-Kyou Lee.

In an effort to encourage young students, AOGS has come up with the GEOHOST programme wherein select students below the age of 35 are given an opportunity to participate in annual conference. This is the first time such an initiative has been undertaken under the aegis of AOGS and Harsh Gupta, President-elect, AOGS has been instrumental in starting the GEOHOST programme by providing financial assistance.

The Geological Society of India had put up stall displaying all its publications including the reprinted edition of the 'Geology of India' (June 2010). A large number of delegates visited the stall and purchased this publication besides other memoirs and books.

The 8th AOGS is scheduled from 8-12 August, 2011 at the Taipei International Convention Centre, Taiwan.