PRIORITIES OF THE NEW DIRECTOR, BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Dr. David Falvey has been appointed as the next Director of the British Geological Survey. He is due to assume charge of the post in January, 1998. Dr. Falvey has been the Director of the International Ocean Drilling Program, Washington.

Falvey looks forward to the challenge of leading the Survey as it moves into the 21st century. His priorities include the preparation of digital three dimensional geoscientific data models and the development of relevant applications aimed at providing solutions for the needs of Government, Industry and the Community.


CORRESPONDENCE

HAVE WE NOT NEGLECTED AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF GOLD?

Dr. Radhakrishna has very rightly stressed in his leading article (Jour.Geo1.Soc.India v.50, October 1997) that an important source of gold has been neglected in this country. All over the world recovery of byproduct metals, especially the precious metals — gold and silver is given the highest priority as it would make the mining operations economically more viable. Byproduct gold constitutes 5-10% of world gold production.

The association of gold-silver with copper mineralisation in some of the copper deposits of Khetri copper belt Rajasthan was known earlier (Chandra Chowdary et al. 1977; Raghu Nandan et al. 1981). Bulk ore samples from the Kolihan exploratory mine were sent to the ore dressing laboratory, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur for pilot plant investigations. Preliminary studies indicated that the copper concentrates from Kolihan reported a higher gold content (1 to 3 g/t) than the concentrates from Madhan Kudhan.

Since the concentrates from Malanjkhand copper mine is also treated at the Khetri Copper Complex, it would be interesting to know the gold-silver content in the copper concentrate as the run of mine ore contains on an average 0.2 g/t of gold and 6 g/t of silver (Sikka and Nehru, 1997).

This important source of precious metals — gold and silver associated with copper ores is not being properly utilised. Based on the initial data generated nearly three decades ago, full efforts should have been made to tap this source. The production of gold-silver as byproducts from the copper ore smelter/refinery can be increased by applying appropriate technology and it should be possible to reach an aggregate production of more than a tonne of gold from the copper mines of Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

References


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