factors triggered the cooling of the Polar Regions could be found out. Organic and other materials deposited in moraines or glacial lakes seem to be ideal sources not only for dating (AMS Radiocarbon, TL) but also to understand temporal change in vegetation and algal assemblages.

Antarctic region though appears less useful for the pollen analysis due to restricted occurrence of only two pollen producing taxa of higher plants at this region but the presence of a good amount of local and long distance transported, extra regional palynomorphs in the sediments suggest that their qualitative and quantitative changes in sediments could be interpreted in terms of past climatic changes. Based on pollen analysis three phases of broad climatic changes have been recognized during Holocene from a shallow sediment core collected from Priyadarshni, fresh water Antarctic lake, in Schirmacher Oasis, Eastern Antarctica. It shows that at the beginning of the Holocene, around 10,000 yr BP the area was under influences of cold dry climate followed by warm climate around 9000 yr BP. Climate again gets deteriorated around 3000 yr BP and two fold climatic oscillation i.e. cold-humid to warm-humid has been recorded since last 2000 year BP. Multi-disciplinary approach i.e. Palynology coupled with Limnology, Geomorphology, Geochemical studies, & mineral magnetic studies on deep lake core sediments, exposed glacio-lacustrine sediments and ice cores would provide sound data base for the better understanding of spatio-temporal climatic changes of the Antarctic region.

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THE XIX MEETING OF COMNAP AT WASHINGTON

The XIX meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programme (COMNAP) was held during 9-14 July, 2007 at Washington DC, USA. As a member of the COMNAP, India was well represented in this meeting. Various working groups involved in activities related to safety of ships, air operations, training, energy management, medical, tourism and NGO, information technology etc also met during the meeting.

Presentations made during the meeting include: (1) COMNAP Information System, document library, Information exchange, Medical facilities, Ship Position Report System (SPRS), Voyage Information System etc., (2) Report on COMNAP’s participation to Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA-6), (3) Report on the second Antarctic Meteorological Observations, Modelling and Forecasting workshop held at NCAR, Boulder, Colorado, USA during 26-28 June, 2007, (4) Report on the recently concluded 30th ATCM hosted by India during 30 April – 11 May, 2007 at New Delhi and (5) Report on the presentation workshop convened on Waste Management along with briefing on the activities of various associate bodies such as RAPAL, AFOPS, EPB etc.

Dr. Kazuyuki Shirashi from Japan was elected to succeed as chair of SCALOP from the end of the next XX COMNAP meeting at St. Petersburg. Shri Rasik Ravindra from India and Lou Sanson from New Zealand were unanimously elected as EXCOM Member with immediate effect. During IPY Contact Group Meeting, India besides other member countries presented the Indian involvement in various scientific/outreach activities in the IPY campaign.

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LANDSLIDE MONITORING

Those interested in Rain-induced landslides are advised to go through the paper ‘Satellite Remote Sensing for Global Landslide Monitoring’ which has appeared in the issue of EOS Trans., American Geophysical Union, v.88, no.37, 11 September 2007.