NEWS AND NOTES

Foundation Day Celebrations of Geological Society of India, Bangalore — P. Krishnamurthy

The 53rd Foundation day celebration was held on 28th May, 2010 at the Society’s premises. A large number of Fellows attended the function. The function began with a warm welcome by P. Krishnamurthy, Joint Secretary. Besides invited guests, a number of students with their parents from several schools in Bangalore, who have won the prizes at the Earth Day celebrations. The function was presided over by R. Vaidyanadhan, former Editor. The other invitees were H.K.R. Rao, K.V. Krishnamurthy, M. Ramakrishnan, R.H. Sawkar, Secretary, briefed the Society’s activities and outlined the plans for augmenting the liaison not only with national and international societies which promote activities for the cause of Earth Sciences but also Government and private agencies engaged in exploration and mining of metals and ores. He also narrated the programmes on the importance of Water Resources, the efforts in sensitizing people on the Environment through interaction with NGOs and schools. He also sought guidelines and suggestions from the Fellows to further improve the performance of the Society. This was followed by a session of reminiscences, in which H.K.R. Rao gave a brief narration of how the KGF since its beginning in the early 1900s and its decline till the closure during post-1970. K.V. Krishnamurthy highlighted the international standing of Society’s Journal. He suggested that the Society should popularize the causes pertaining to the earth system, such as groundwater and environmental problems through short films, often made in collaboration with professional agencies so that they reach the masses. M. Rama-krishnan highlighted the Indian publications on komatiites from the Indian Archean terranes, authored by foreigners. He further highlighted as how the Chinese established their sophisticated laboratories and compared to our own limited and less frequent data acquisitions. He opined introspection on remedial measures for establishing state-of-the-art laboratories in the country. Basappa Reddy, formerly of DMG, pleaded for a new space to the Society. M.S. Rao, former Editor, implored the practices in plagiarism and duplication. Guru Rao, Engineering Geologist, reminisced as how he was involved in the geotechnical investigations of over 300 dams both in India and abroad. B.C. Prabhakar of Bangalore University wanted an active and larger participation in the monthly lecture programmes and sought ways to improve larger attendance. B.N. Shankar suggested that publications on economic geology and mining should be increased. R. Srinivasan, opined that a national effort should be made to educate students on the unique features of the earth, which may kindle interest at the school level. N.R. Ramesh, formerly of GSI, suggested that there should be closer co-operation between industry, academic institutions and the Society. He also opined that the Earth Science Olympiad should be made more popular. Ramana Murthy, formerly of GSI, suggested new methods of teaching and new subjects in geology in place of the classical subjects and methods. Parameshwaraih, formerly of IBM, who had displayed his excellent collection of rocks and ores, opined that technical reports should be very objective. P. Krishnamurthy briefly outlined the Earth Day celebrations on 22nd April, 2010 at Khanja Bhavan, in association with Jaisimha Rao and his colleagues of the Centre for Human Resource Development, Bangalore.

The prize winning students who attended the programme are Sumukhi from Acharya Guru Parampara Vidyalaya, Malkeet Singh, St. Philominas English High School, Sushmita P. Naik, Sri Kumarns Childrens Home High School, Jerome Joseph, St. Vincent Pallotti School and Anthony Rishab, St. Vincent Pallotti High School, were felicitated. Malkeet Singh spoke on ‘Global warming’ and engaged the audience with his alacrity and also specified do’s and don’ts to save the Earth from pollution problems.

R. Vaidyanadhan in his concluding Presidential remarks congratulated the young and old alike for their active participation and suggestions. He recalled as how in US in early 1970s, he had carried a toposheet to a party which aroused extreme interest especially among the young, in which they were able to see their location and surroundings. He suggested that such practices should be followed to create interest in students and also make them aware of surroundings and their importance.

The function ended with a vote of thanks by S. Jithendra Kumar, Treasurer, who acknowledged the support, help and suggestions by the Fellows of the Society. He thanked particularly the support extended by Jaisimha Rao and his team for the efforts to organize the students of various schools in Bangalore for the function.