

GEOSCIENCE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES AT MANGALORE UNIVERSITY

Recognising the fact that topics in Earth Science are taught in schools by teachers who have no formal education in geology, two Geology Orientation Courses were organised for high school teachers at Mangalore University. The main objective was to help the participants to teach geoscience better. The courses were conducted and boxes of samples provided to the participants with the generous grants received from the International Union of Geological Sciences' Commission on Geoscience Education and Training (IUGS-COGEOED) and Dakshina Kannada District Council for Science and Technology.

The first course was organised in 1995 for two days under the aegis of the Lions Club of Mangalore. Mangalore University teachers and professional geologists delivered lectures and interacted with the 30 teacher participants. Geological specimens were on display. Lecture notes were provided to the participants.

A second orientation course was organised on March 15, 1996 in the Department of Marine Geology. About 50 teachers from high schools in and around Mangalore participated. This course offered more scope for practicals than theory. A video film titled "Volcanic Island" was screened. It was dubbed in Kannada so as to help teachers to understand the subject matter of the film better. On request from the teacher participants of the course, educational video films pertaining to geology were screened in a few schools.

A more enlivening experience for the participants was the visit to the Department Museum. An array of rocks, minerals, ores and fossils roused the participants interest. This was followed by an open forum for participants to ask questions. During the valedictory function, the participants were given certificate of attendance alongwith boxes of labeled samples of rocks, minerals, fossils and ores of Karnataka.

Exhibitions

The Department put up and managed a stall at the *Karavalli Utsava* (coastal festival) in Mangalore during January-February, 1995. Interesting specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils, colourful posters, models and charts as well as instruments were on display. Partial financial assistance was provided by IUGS-COGEOED for this activity. A similar exhibition was organised during the decennial celebrations of the university and video film on "Oceanic Mineral Wealth" was screened.

Visits to Schools

Faculty members of the Department visited schools in and around Mangalore and delivered talks (illustrated with slides, posters etc.) in order to popularise Earth Sciences among school children. Specimens of important rocks, ores and fossils from the Department Museum were exhibited during these visits.

Geology Quiz on All India Radio (AIR)

On an invitation from the AIR, Mangalore, a Geology Quiz was conducted on 19th June, 1995 for college students who had not studied geology as an optional subject. The quiz consisted of questions that focussed on the importance and uses of minerals and earth materials that are used in our day-to-day lives. Popular earth science books published by Geological Society of India were given as prizes to the winners. The IUGS-COGEOED sponsored the prizes.

Where do we go from here?

Having been a part of the activities carried out in and around Mangalore, I sincerely feel that there should be a concerted, sustained and co-ordinated effort of Geoscience Departments, Geological Society of India, Geological Survey of India, Department of Education of State Governments, Service Organisations and the Industry to ensure that geoscience promotional activities are carried out on a larger scale and in a more effective and efficient manner. I urge fellow geoscientists to take the initiative and carry out some activities to promote Geoscience Education at the school level, kindle interest in young minds and enhance the common man's knowledge and appreciation of the importance of geosciences in our day-to-day lives.

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TECTONO-GEOLOGICAL MAP OF NORTHEASTERN INDIA AND ADJOINING REGION (Scale 1:4,000,000)

A Tectono-Geological Map of Northeastern Indian and Adjoining Region has been compiled and printed under the DST Project No. HR/UR/35/95 by D.R. Nandy ("Shefalika", GC-78, Salt Lake City, Calcutta - 700091). No brochure accompanies this map.

Nandy has long personal experience in working in different parts of Northeast India, from where he also hails. He had been compiling geological map of Northeast India and the adjoining regions of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Tibet (China) over a long time. He is one of the active workers on geology and tectonics of Northeast India and Adjoining Region, as well as, on the seismotectonic activity of the region.

Nandy has compiled this map from "published and own sources". A list of 13 sources has been included. Apart from references to geological maps of some countries included in the area and other than his own publications, other sources cited are of 1983 and earlier. A very similar Geological and Tectonic Map prepared by Nandy-1979 was published (in black and white) in the *Geology of Nagaland Ophiolite* (Anon, 1986). Neither this work nor later publications on geology and tectonics of NE India and the adjoining regions by other workers are cited. There had been an information explosion on geology of China, written in English, particularly during the 30th International Geological Congress, held at Beijing in 1996. A few publications have come out recently on the Eastern Himalayan syntaxis involving the Siang and Namche-Barwa domes (Berg et al. 1997; Acharyya and Sengupta, 1998). Much of these published data has not been incorporated in the present tectono-geological map. This may have been partly caused by logistic problem faced by the emeritus scientist. Redrafting and updating of such complex map is not easy and is time consuming in the conventional mode. The present-day mode of digital cartography amenable to easy editing and updating is not likely to be available to Nandy.

The map has been titled tectono-geological map, but tectonic domains and settings have not been identified. The author has relied on geographic domains and geological time units. The area has been subdivided into following domains in the inset map and legend: Meghalaya platform, Surma and Bengal basin, Assam-Burma basin including Assam valley, Axial zone, Central Burma basin,