

## DISCUSSION

### A Plea for an Annual National Conference on Earth Sciences

(A comment on the paper by K. Gopalan in the Journal of the Geological Society of India, Vol. 35, No. 2, 1990, pp. 129-130).

Scientific societies and professional bodies play a dominant role in the dissemination of information by way of organizing national and international conferences, seminars, symposia and workshops in emerging and frontier areas, and also in areas which have direct relevance to the Indian context, based on competence and capability of Indian Scientists and Technologists. In addition to the Seminars and Conferences being organised by these learned societies, a number of other Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Field meetings are organised by individuals, group of scientists and other Institutions/Government organisations. In fact, there is a proliferation of such seminars and symposia in various disciplines of science. Dr. Gopalan has rightly pointed out the state of affairs in the organisation of such seminars in Earth Sciences. This malady is not only restricted to Earth Sciences alone but encompasses other disciplines of science also.

This aspect is quite evident when we look into the scheme of 'assistance to professional bodies and scientific academies' funded by DST, wherein about 300 Professional Bodies are supported and one of the major activities funded under this scheme is the organisation of Seminar/Symposia and Conferences.

In addition to the above, a number of Conferences/Seminars have been funded by DST alone under its Seminar and Symposia Scheme, out of which around fifty have been funded under Earth Sciences related activities during the last 2 years.

The suggestion of Dr. Gopalan for organising a single major conference in Earth Sciences is timely and welcome. It is proposed that a joint meeting of the representatives of Earth Science related Societies (Annexure-I) should be organised by Geological Society of India to work out and plan the modalities for a single Conference on Earth Sciences. As a first step towards holding a single annual Conference/Convention, discussion may be initiated between the Geological Society of India, the Indian Society of Earth Sciences, the Geological, Mining, and Metallurgical Society of India, the Indian Association of Sedimentologists and Indian Geophysics Association.

In the meanwhile, and until some consensus is arrived at on this important issue, the community of Earth Scientists should exercise restraint in the matter of holding conferences/seminar/symposia.

The benefits of holding such an annual Convention are many, and earlier a decision is taken the better will be the future for Earth Sciences in India.

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*Annexure-I***EARTH SCIENCE RELATED SOCIETIES IN INDIA**

1. Allahabad Geographical Society, Allahabad.
2. Association of Exploration Geophysicists, Hyderabad.
3. Clay Mineral Society of India, New Delhi.
4. The Deccan Geographical Society, Secunderabad.
5. The Geographical Society of India, Calcutta.
6. Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India, Calcutta.
7. Geological Society of India, Bangalore.
8. Indian Association of Hydrologists, Roorkee.
9. Indian Association of Sedimentologists, Aligarh.
10. Indian Geographical Society, Madras.
11. Indian Geological Congress, Roorkee.
12. Indian Geologists Association, Chandigarh.
13. Indian Geotechnical Society, New Delhi.
14. Indian Society of Earth Sciences, Calcutta,
15. Indian Society of Earthquake Technology, Roorkee.
16. Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun.
17. Indian Water Resources Society, Roorkee.
18. National Geophysical Society of India, Varanasi.
19. Natural Resources Development Co-operative Society Limited, Hyderabad.
20. Indian Geophysics Association, Hyderabad.

**BEGIN IT**

Loose this day loitering—it will be the same story,  
 Tomorrow—and the next more dilatory.  
 Thus indecision brings its own delays,  
 And days are lost lamenting over days.  
 Are you in earnest? seize this very minute—  
 What you can do or dream you can, begin it,  
 Courage has genius, power and magic in it—  
 Only engage and then the mind grows heated.  
 Begin it and the work will be completed.

—GOETHE