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NATIONAL FIELD WORKSHOP IN THE NEOGENE SUCCESSION OF MIZORAM by R.P. Tiwari

A National Field Workshop on the Neogene Succession of Mizoram was organised during November 1-3, 2007 in order to highlight the importance that this sedimentary succession holds in the context of India-Myanmar collision. This was sponsored by the ESS Division of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India, New Delhi The target of the workshop was marine to continental succession (Surma - Tipam Group rocks) excellently preserved and exposed in Mizoram This sedimentary succession was deposited in response to the Indo-Myanmar collision and subsequent withdrawal of the sea Consequently, it holds a great potential for information on various aspects of collision such as biotic, sedimentologic, geochemical, tectonic, palaeoclimatic, orographic, sea level changes, etc. This information needs to be recorded and interpreted in terms of geodynamic modelling Coordinated by Prof R P Tiwari of Mizoram University, this field workshop was basically held with the aim of letting the earth scientists of the country appreciate the academic and economic importance potentiality of the succession and help evolve integrated research programmes to address the above referred issues

The workshop was spread over 3 days of field work. There were on-the-spot interactions and discussions in the field followed by detailed discussions in the evening at the venue. There was no formal presentation excepting the one by Prof 1 B Singh on the topic "Sedimentation dynamics in the Delta System" Participants freely shared their ideas and observations in the field as well as in the discussion meetings that followed the day's field work Some of the best preserved and excellently exposed sections in the area were shown to the participants. These sections fall in the Aizawl and Kolasib districts of Mizoram

Since the objective of the workshop was to study the multidisciplinary aspects of the earth science viz, stratigraphy, palaeontology, magnetostratigraphy, sedimentology, geochemistry, palynology,

coal geology, isotope geology and structural and tectonic aspects of the Surma -Tipam sequence of Mizoram, twenty-two earth scientists specializing in the above subdisciplines of geology were invited and all participated in the workshop. A few specialists who have spent several years working in the Neogene succession of the Northeastern India region and elsewhere were especially invited as resource persons for the benefit of the participants in the field These included Prof. Ashok Sahni of Panjab University Prof 1 B Singh and Prof A K Jauhri of University of Lucknow, Prof. P. K Saraswati of IIT Powai, Prof R P Kachhara of Nagaland University, Prof. S. J Sangode of University of Pune and Prof. S Bardhan of Jadavpur University Dr U K Sharma represented the DST All experts and participants freely shared their observations, knowledge and experience during the field workshop, i.e. both in the field as well as during discussion each evening. Some participants also showed keen interest in formulating the project proposals for funding by the DST

STRUCTURE AND RHEOLOGY OF THE LITHOSPHERE by M. Jayananda

An excellent review of recent developments over last decade on structure, rheology and evolution of lithosphere that contributes to our understanding of geological histories of oceans, ancient shields and young orogenic belts is provided by Jackson et al. (2008) in Journal of Geological Society of London, v 165, pp 453-465. The paper is timely and is of great interest to researchers working on

structure, dynamics and evolutions of lithosphere particularly on the seismicity in young orogens and ancient continental shield areas. A wide range of observations from great diversity of geological, geophysical and geochemical disciplines are reviewed and provide a consistent and coherent picture. This synthesis starts with discovery of plate tectonics in 1960's followed by various models based on

structure of lithosphere, earthquake depth distribution and ability of the lithosphere to support loads. Two models including 'Jelly Sandwich Model' that envisage a weak lower crust sandwiched between a relatively strong upper crust and strong upper mantle and more recent view of long term strength of the continental lithosphere contained wholly within crust.