

Foreword

Climate change is currently a subject of great interest and its implications are far reaching, and its ramifications not well understood. There is also a tendency among the elite to ignore traditional knowledge in preference to knowledge on various aspects of climate that are being gathered by different institutions of learning.

This knowledge which is getting rapidly accumulated should become widely known in a country specially like India that is wholly dependent on the timely arrival of monsoon winds bringing along with them copious amounts of rainfall to a land parched and sucked dry. In the picturesque words of the great Indian scientist C.V. Raman, himself a great lover of meteorological studies – “*the opening and the shutting of the sluice gates in the sky are the most important events in the calendar of the man who tills the earth in these areas*”. On a matter of such great national importance there is absence of intellectual effort in coordinating our knowledge gathered from persons holding different points of view. There is also a need for a wider integration and dissemination of this new knowledge and will be of special interest to earth scientists.

The Geological Society of India felt that holding a workshop on the ‘Indian Monsoon’ by bringing together on a common platform scientists of different disciplines working on the problem and giving scope for a free exchange of ideas would be very helpful in promoting knowledge about this important subject of the Indian Monsoon.

A meeting was accordingly held at Bangalore which was well attended and new data presented and many aspects of the problem discussed. Those who participated in the workshop have taken time to formulate their ideas and put them in the form of research contributions. All these articles received, after peer review, are now gathered together and published as a special issue of the Journal of the Geological Society of India. I feel confident that this volume will be welcomed by all active groups engaged in climate research and will provide scope for taking up new lines of investigation aimed at tracing the trends in variation of climate in the past, particularly during the Holocene representing the last 10,000 years and chart the course of investigations in the future.

Dr. R. Shankar of the Marine Geology Faculty of the Mangalore University took the full responsibility of planning and organizing the workshop. The Society is grateful to him and to several of his research students for help rendered in the smooth and efficient conduct of the workshop.

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