

WORKSHOP ON COLLISION ZONE GEODYNAMICS

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, organized a workshop on 'Collision Zone Geodynamics' during September 20-21, 2007, at its premises. Welcoming the Chief Guest Dr Harsh K Gupta, Raja Ramanna Fellow, National Geophysical Research Institute, delegates and distinguished invitees, Prof B R Arora, Director, WIHG emphasized that the current workshop form part of the celebration of the golden jubilee year of the Geological Society of India. He, on behalf of the Wadia Institute and geoscience community, felicitated the Geological Society of India on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee and appreciated its role in disseminating the geoscientific knowledge. On this event he paid special tributes to Dr B P Radhakrishna for steering the Society from its inception to its glorious golden jubilee. Prof B R Arora also presented mementos to Dr Harsh Gupta, President, Geological Society of India and Dr K R Gupta, Convener, Northern Chapter of the Geological Society of India.

Dr Harsh Gupta in his inaugural address stressed on the possibility that triggered earthquakes in Koyana reservoir area can be predicted since earthquakes occur in a small area of 30 km by 15 km and there are no other seismically active tectonic elements in the vicinity. The investigations have identified a nucleation of earthquake hypocenters, which started on 12th May, 2006. On the basis of their previous experience of studying nucleations-preceding earthquakes in the Koyana region it was predicted that an earthquake of magnitude >5 would occur in specified window occur over the next 15 days time (till 31st May, 2006), with a 50% probability. Later an earthquake of M 4.2 occurred in the Koyana region on 21st May, 2006. Hence, with the help of seismic monitoring of the area, short-term prediction of reservoir induced earthquakes can be done. He further stated that the Tsunami studies in the coastal region of Indian Ocean have indicated that the northern Bay of Bengal does not have tectonic environment conducive for the occurrence of a mega thrust Tsunamigenic earthquake.

About eighty participants from various organizations participated in this event. Special invitees were Dr Djordje Grujic, Department of Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University, Canada, and Prof L Vinnik, Institute of Physics of the Earth, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, delivered talks on "Channel Flow Model" and "Upper Mantle Beneath the Foot Hills of Western Himalaya - Subducted Lithospheric slab

or a keel of the Indian Shield". The other prominent speakers were Prof R S Sharma, Dr S Sinha Roy, Dr V C Thakur, Dr B R Arora, Dr A K Dubey, Prof B Prakash, Dr Mita Rajaram, Prof D C Srivastava, Prof T Ahmad, Dr Y J Bhaskar Rao, Dr T R K Chetty, etc.

The deliberations were arranged in six technical sessions starting with one/two invited talks. Technical proceedings of first day included first session devoted on "Collision Tectonics", second session on the "Crustal Deformation" followed by a session on "Climate and Tectonics". On 21st September three technical sessions were organized which included "Geophysical Imaging", "Magmatism", and third on the "Dynamic Evolution". Highlight of the workshop was Poster session primarily for young researchers from various participating institutions. Three selected posters were given cash prizes with citation for their best overall presentation.

A parallel program was organized in the morning of 21st September, 2007 to launch the Institute's program for the International Year of Planet Earth. Dr P S Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, was the Chief Guest. In the inaugural address he pointed that the time has come for integrated and interdisciplinary research in the field of Earth Sciences. Dr N C Mehrotra, Director, Birbal Sahani Institute of Palaeobotany was the Guest of Honour. On this occasion Prof B R Arora extended a very warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and delegates. He presented the highlights of the Institute program for the International Year of Planet Earth and emphasized that integrated geological, geophysical, geochronological and geochemical studies along selected geotranssect across the Himalayan orogen coupled with GPS and seismic monitoring network will shed new insight into the evolution model of the Himalayan orogen and provide better understanding of the geological processes controlling seismic hazards. A special focus would be on real time geodynamic processes allowing sustainable management of natural resources and providing clues to cope up with natural hazards. Outreach program to disseminate knowledge of earth system sciences for the healthier and wealthier society should be the central theme of the Wadia Institute program for the International Year of Planet Earth.

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