National Seminar on Deltas and other Sedimentary Basins: their resource potential and XXVI Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists (IAS-2009) – *D. Rajasekhara Reddy, Delta Studies Institute, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam*

A three day National Seminar was organized by the Delta Studies Institute, Andhra University in Visakhapatnam during 16th to 18th December 2009. 175 delegates representing about 30 institutions including universities, IITs, Central and State government organizations and Private Industries attended the Seminar.

On16th, the seminar was inaugurated by Prof. S.K. Tandon, Delhi University and Dr. Rabi Bastia of Reliance Industries Ltd., Mumbai. Prof. Tandon delivered a special lecture on "(Dis) connectivity in a large river dispersal system 0 The Ganga, India". He explained the disconnectivity in the dispersal pattern along River Ganga from its source up to Bay of Bengal. He also described the dynamics of the hydrological system of Ganga River along its path. Dr. Rabi Bastia presented a paper on the prospects of Hydrocarbon and Oil exploration along the East coast of India. He illustrated the different sedimentary basins and explained the drastic change in oil exploration methods from last two decades to the present.

Dr. V.K. Rao, Advisor to Reliance Natural Resource Limited, presented a paper on "Hydrocarbon Potential in the Upper, Middle and Lower Bengal Fan Area".

Prof. B.K. Sahu, IIT, Bombay, presented a keynote lecture on "Physics and Mathematics of Transportation and Deposition of Clastic Sediments" and explained the importance of the grain size in the Shelf, slope and abyssal plain from various oceans. Subsequently, Dr. B. Kumar, Former Scientist, NGRI, explained how geochemical prospecting helps in identifying some suitable structural traps which are potential for hydrocarbon exploration.

Prof. A.S.Naidu, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA, delivered a lecture on coastal and deltaic processes on Alaskan Arctic region. Dr. Santanu Banerjee, IIT Bombay presented a paper on "Microbial Mat Features resembling Ediacaran fossils: Modern and Ancient Examples".

Participants of the National Seminar on Deltas and XXVI Convention – IAS 2009

There were two presentations for Young Sedimentologist's Award, one by V.G. Deepti Desai, Department of Marine Sciences, Goa University, on "Geochemistry and Bioavailability of Selected Metals in Sediments of a Tropical Estuary (Zuari), Goa, Central West Coast of India" and the second was by Linashree Dalabehera, Department of Geology and Geophysics, IIT Kharagpur, on "Paleoproterozoic sedimentation styles in Chamakpur Keonjaragarh Basin – a stabilized approach".

Six poster presentations were made by GSPC, BSIP and students of Delta studies Institute on their live project work.

On the 17th, two parallel sessions were held in Hall I and II. In Hall I, Session I, II and IV were conducted. The theme of Session I was "Coastal Sedimentary Basins". Fifteen presentations were made in this session. Session II was held on the theme "Offshore Sedimentary Basins" in which nine presentations were made. Session IV was on "Paleozoic and Mesozoic Sedimentary Basins", six presentations were made in this session. In Hall II, Sessions III and V were conducted. Session III was on "Archaean and Proterozoic Sedimentary Basins", eleven presentation were made in this session.

The theme of Session V was "Cenozoic Sedimentary Basins" in which fifteen presentations were made. Valedictory function was organized in the evening and Ms. Deepti Desai was declared as the winner of Young Sedimentologists Award and Prof. D. Rajasekhara Reddy, on behalf of the organizers, announced free life membership of the IAS to the winner. The valedictory function was followed by the General Body meeting of the IAS.

On the 18th, a field visit was organized from Visakhapatnam to Bhimunipatnam during which the geomorphological features along the picturesque coast including wave cut terraces, raised wave cut platforms, palaeo-red sand dunes, bay, Goasthan river estuary, beach, heavy minerals concentrations were observed.