17th National Convention of Economic Geologists – V.V. Nageswara Rao and P.S.N.Murthy, Visakhapatnam (Email: vvnrao@rediffmail.com)

The 17th National Convention of Economic Geologists, along with a National Symposium on “Challenges of Mineral Development for sustainable Growth of India’s Mineral-based Industries (with Emphasis on Iron and Steel Sector)” and Round Table Conference was organized jointly by the Department of Geology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and the Visakhapatnam Chapter of South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (SAAEG) from 8th to 10th March, 2013. A total of 120 participants attended the symposium and over 90 contributions were received for deliberations.

The Inaugural Function was held on 8th March, 2013 in the presence of Chief Guest, Prof. A.V. Prasada Rao, Rector, Andhra University and Guest of Honour, Dr. M. Sudhakar, Scientist “G”, Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi. Prof. V. Veeriah, Principal, College of Science & Technology, Andhra University, presided over the function. Prof. T.Y. Naidu invited the guests on to the dias. Prof. K.L. Rai, President, SAAEG and Prof. T. Vinoda Rao, Head of Geology Department, A.U. welcomed the participants on behalf of the SAAEG and host University respectively. PSN Murthy, Vice-President, SAAEG’s South Zone, Prof. K.L. Rai, President, SAAEG presided over it. Prof. D.C. Gupta, Secretary General, presented the Annual Report and audited statement of accounts for 2011-12 which were unanimously adopted. On this occasion, Prof. A.D. Mukherjee Former Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University, Kolkata, delivered the invited keynote address on “Economic Geology as Harbinger of Growth in India’s Mineral Industry — Today and Tomorrow”.

In the second session, two important memorial lectures were delivered – the 4th Lifetime achievement award being presented to (A) A.K. Chatterjee by D.C. Gupta, Secretary General and (B) Prof. Satyananda Acharya by Prof. K.L. Rai. (C) Inaugural Session: Front row: E.N. Dhanajaya Rao (standing), from L to R T. Vinoda Rao, M. Sudhakar, V. Veeriah, A.V. Prasada Rao, K.L. Rai. Back row: V.V. Nageswar Rao, M.J. Rao, P.S.N. Murthy. (D) Group photo of the participants.
Prof. M.G. Paithankar Memorial Lecture by Dr. V.N. Vasudev of Geomysore services Ltd. on “India Has the Geological Potential To Produce More Gold & Base metals but grossly Underexplored: Current Problems and Solutions”, and 7th Prof. C. Mahadevan Memorial Lecture by Prof. C. Leelamandam of Osmania University on “Chromite Mineralisation in the Kondapalli Layered Complex”. This was followed special lectures, by Dr. Adhir K. Basu former D.D.G., GSI on “Epigenetic manganese mineralization at Bharweli, Madhya Pradesh — A sequel to Malanjkhand-Chilpi Tectonics”, Dr. B.L. Narasayya, former DDG, GSI on “Geological and Geochemical Milieu of Ferro-magnetic Deposits — An Analysis”.

The third session on “Iron Ore Geology” was held next day morning under the Chairmanship of Prof. Acharya. Papers entitled “The role of microbiota in the genesis of BIF – revisited” “Geochemical characteristics of BIF and Greenstone belts of the Bundelkhand Craton, Central India”, “Is the Banding of Banded Iron Formation of Donimalai of Primary Origin or of Secondary Origin — A Critical Analysis”, “Role of structural analysis in exploration of Iron ores in the Supracrustal belts of Peninsular India” and “Discovery of multi-metallic Rare-Earth deposit at Namakungwa, Namtumbo District, Ruvuma region, Tanzania, and compared it with similar deposits of Indian Peninsula”.

In the fourth session on “Mineral Exploration and Geostatistics”, two papers on remote sensing, one paper on ore reserve calculations from bench plans and three articles on geostatistics were presented.

The fifth session was devoted specifically to the “Beneficiation of Ores”, the 10th Dr. W.D. West Memorial Lecture was delivered by Shri K.V. Rao, former Managing Director of Essar Steel on “Beneficiation of Low-Grade Iron ore fines and Hydraulic Transport of Iron ores”. Subsequently, K. Bhavakavatsalam, Head, Essar Pellet Complex, Vizag, delivered interesting talk on the “Insights of Iron Ore Agglomeration”. This was followed by the presentation of paper entitled “Beneficiation of Banded Hematite Cherts for the Future Iron Ore Industry” by PSN Murthy. In the sixth session on “Beneficiation of Heavy sands”, three informative papers were presented.

This was followed by a very innovative “Students interactive session”, in which the students were encouraged to make brief presentations on topics of their choice, with the objective of developing their skills of technical presentation and public speaking. The three-member jury adjuged 3 best speakers who were given cash awards with certificates and momentos. The session was well-conducted and coordinated by student group leader, Vadde Ramesh.


Valedictory session was presided by Prof. K.L. Rai, Deputy General Manager of Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) at Visakapatnam, Shri C.N.S. Sastry was the Chief Guest. Prof. T. Vinod Rao, Prof. E.N. Dhananjaya Rao, Prof. VVN Rao, convener of the symposium and PSN Murthy spoke on the occasion. The symposium concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Prof. K. Satyanarayana Reddy, Co-Convenor.

Round Table Conference

SAAEG organized “Industry-Academia Interactive Programme” on the specific theme titled ‘Resource Base for India’s Iron & Steel Sector : Problems in the Light of Environmental Laws and National Mineral Policy on 10th March, 2013, as part of the National Symposium. The Conference was presided over by Prof. K.L. Rai, who welcomed the Chief Guest, Shri P.C. Parakh, Former Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Govt. of A.P. and Secretary to the Govt. of India, Dept. of Coal and Special Guest of Honour, Shri R.H. Sawkar, Secretary, Geological Society of India. Both the distinguished guests were honoured. Prof. Rai took the opportunity to announce that the proceedings of the Conference will be dedicated to the fond memory of Late Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna to whom the geological community of the country will always remain immensely grateful for his innumerable contributions.

Initiating the discussions while delivering the SAAEG — sponsored 10th M.S. Krishnan Memorial Lecture entitled “Iron Ore Mining Industry of India — Current Status, Development Prospects and Constraints”, Shri B.K. Mohanty, Former Director of Mines & Geology, Orissa Government, Shri R.H. Sawkar narrated his own first-hand experience marked with numerous difficulties in the acquisition of land for mining purpose and efforts made to solve the problem locally. This was followed by the presentation about the “Mining laws of north-eastern states of the country” by Shri D.V.N. Raju.

Severa other distinguished participants including Dr. S. Acharya, Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya, Dr. Dhana Raju, Shri R.N. Padhi, Shri B.L. Narasayya, Prof. D.C. Gupta, Shri K.G. Vyas, Prof. V.K. Khanna, Dr. A. Santharam, Shri J.K. Bhalia, Prof. V.V. Nageswara Rao, Prof. K. Satyanarayana Reddy and Prof. D. Rajsekhar Reddy also took part in the Conference and its deliberations. The Round table conference concluded with a vote of thanks by P.S.N. Murthy, Vice-President (SAAEG’s Southern Region) and Chief Coordinator of the Symposium.