

## FIRST ALL-INDIA SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

The Department of Geology, Bangalore University and the Indian Institute of Geological Education jointly organised the First All-India Seminar on Environmental Geosciences. The objectives of the seminar were: (1) to initiate firm base for the subject of Environmental Geosciences which are new to this country and so vital for the mankind, (2) to group the present available knowledge on the subject with the help of the scientists engaged in the field, (3) to formulate a sound programme of Environmental Geology by constructing a curriculum for a course through group discussion and (4) to suggest specific ideas for planners and policy makers. The deliberations were concerned with different issues of environmental problems of vital importance.

The seminar was held in Bangalore from 8th to 10th August 1976 and was attended by 100 delegates from all over the country. The deliberations were conducted in five sessions and one workshop. Thirty-two papers were received dealing with the implications of Environmental Geosciences on different aspects.

In the first session Dr. T. Thimaiah stressed the importance of scientific approach on dumping of mining waste and its impact on environment through a key note address. R. Srinivasan and B. L. Srinivas highlighted the concept of land reclamations of derelict mined lands. The paper by R. H. Sawkar and V. N. Vasudev dealt with the disposal of copper mine waste and pollution control.

In his key note address to the second session Dr. K. V. Raghava Rao mentioned the impact of natural environmental forces upon man. The toxic chemicals in mineral environment and the continued application of fertilizers leading to the infertility of soil was pointed by J. S. Venugopal. The paper by J. C. V. Sastry and others dealt with the industrial pollutants through a case study of Mandya National Paper Mills.

Prof. S. Sambe Gowda, while delivering his key note address to the third session, brought out the importance of environment on the evolution of life

in the past and the usefulness of this knowledge in predicting the future environment. Dr. V. V. Pathy and others dealt with the compositional control of biological factor of the sedimentary environment in Kaladgi basin of Northern Karnataka. Graphical analysis of EH and PH studies of Gurmutkal area and its correlation with the ecosystem of faunal and floral remains was presented by T. V. Shivarudrappa.

Sri J. P. Srivastava laid stress on the need for co-operative efforts of the engineers, town planners and architects while delivering the key note address to the IV session. An attempt to decipher environmental geology factors of the twin cities of Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar was presented by R. S. Shenoi. The importance of geology in urban and industrial planning of towns with special reference to Jaipur and Alwar was presented by P. N. Mehta and R. B. Nag. K. C. C. Raju dealt with the urban and rural water development schemes through a case study of Anantapur District. Fluoride and fluorosis from ground water sources and its effect on health was presented by K. N. Chandrashekara.

The last session of the seminar was earmarked for a workshop to frame a curriculum for a course in "Environmental Geosciences" through group discussion. A book exhibition was also arranged in this connection.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri. K. Raja-gopalaswamy, President, Mineralogical Society of India. Prof. M. Shadakshara Swamy, Principal, Central College, Bangalore, in his presidential address spoke on the importance of environmental geosciences. He stressed the need for co-operative action by chemists, engineers and environmental geologists in evolving a course. The authors of this report hope that this 'First All-India Seminar on Environmental Geosciences' will lay a firm foundation for the development of this new branch Earth Science, a branch which has Geology as its foundation.

Dept. of Geology,  
Central College,  
Bangalore.

S. SAMBE GOWDA,  
M. MAHABALISHWAR.