

A Report on the first meeting of CGPB Committee X on Fundamental and Multidisciplinary Geoscience held in Kolkata on 22nd July, 2009.

The first meeting of newly constituted CGPB Committee X on Fundamental and Multidisciplinary Geoscience was held in Kolkata on 22nd July, 2009. Shri Amitabha Sarkar, Convener and DyDG (CGL) chaired the meeting and Shri N.K. Dutta, DG, GSI, was the guest of honour. The meeting was also attended by Dr. B. Chattopadhyaya, Member Secretary, CGPB and Dy.DG, PPM; Shri J. Singh, Sr.DyDG, STSS; Dr. N.K. Roy, DyDG, Geochemistry; Smt. Bhanumathi Ramakrishnan, DyDG, CHQ; Shri M.M. Swamy, Dy.DG, Eastern Region; Shri M.V. Rao, DyDG, CGD, and other senior officers from various Regions and Wings of GSI.

Dignitaries from other Research Institutions, Universities and Private Entrepreneurs, who participated in the meeting, are:

- Dr. N.C. Mehrotra, Director, BSIP.
- Dr. Y.J. Bhaskar Rao, Scientist G , NGRI.
- Dr. M. Baba, Director, CESS.
- Dr. U. Prasad, General Manager, KDMIPE (ONGC).
- Dr. R.S. Mishra, KDMIPE (ONGC), Suptdg. Geologist
- Shri Arun Kalra, Head-Business Development, De Beers India Pvt.Ltd.
- Shri Aswin Rao, Chief Manager, Geology, ACC Ltd.
- Dr. Pulak Sengupta, Professor, Dept. of Geology, University of Jadavpur.
- Dr. Abdul Matin, Professor, Dept. of Geology, University of Calcutta.

At the outset, Shri Amitabha Sarkar, Dy. Director General, CGL, and Convener, in his welcome address, emphasized the significance of CGPB Committee X in the present scenario and briefly touched upon its various terms of reference. He thanked all the member institutions and permanent invitees for their very useful response to the questionnaire circulated before the meeting and added that the response to the questionnaire and the deliberations during the meeting would indeed act as guidelines for future activities of the committee.

Shri N.K. Dutta, Director General, in his address, gave a brief resume on the activities of various laboratories of GSI. He stressed the need for specialized manpower to carry out fundamental geoscientific research. He requested all the participants to develop a format to record biodata of all the personnel engaged in Geoscientific research for uploading in the GSI Portal.

Dr. B. Chattopadhyaya, Dy. Director General, PPM, elaborated on the formation of CGPB and emphasized the need of capacity building for carrying out fundamental research, especially in the field of mineral exploration. He stressed the need to evolve modalities for free sharing of database and expertise between various institutions for meaningful progress in the field of geoscientific research.

Shri Jaswant Singh, Sr. Dy. Director General, STSS, reiterated the issues presented by Dy. Director General, PPM, and stressed the need to adopt a result-oriented and purposeful approach to researches in the field of Fundamental and Multidisciplinary Geoscience.

The meeting then proceeded with detailed presentations and discussions by various participating institutions / organizations, Regions and Wings of GSI on the following broad themes:

- Instrumental facilities available.
- Major research projects undertaken.
- Need of research collaboration and the modalities of research collaboration adopted by various institutions.
- Major factors that can enhance quality of basic geoscientific research in India.
- Major domains of Earth Science that need to be emphasized in the present scenario.
- Changes that need to be incorporated in University curriculum in Geoscience.
- Modalities to be adopted for propagation of geoscientific awareness and preservation of National Geological Monuments.
- The envisaged role of GSI for furtherance of research in the field of Fundamental and Multidisciplinary Geoscience.

In his concluding remarks, the Convener thanked all the participating institutions for their very proactive role and excellent suggestions. He added that the views expressed by them on the various terms of reference of Committee X would be incorporated in the recommendations and placed before the CGPB Meeting to be held in September, 2009.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks by Shri G. Sarkar, Director, GSI, CGL and Member Secretary, CGPB Committee X.