

SECRETARY'S REPORT: 2011-2012

It gives me great pleasure in presenting the **Fifteenth Annual Report** of the Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG) for the year 2011- 2012.

On behalf of The Executive Council (EC) and my own self, I welcome you all to this Annual General Body Meeting-2012 at **Varanasi, one of the world's oldest cities**, with a continuous history dating back 3,000 to 5,000 years. Today, it retains much of the allure of the ancient world. The center of the Hindu world, Varanasi touts an unrivaled diversity and a unique sense that can be experienced nowhere else. **This city rests on the left bank of the holy river Ganga (Ganges), revered by one and all, in the nation.**

Moreover, I am delighted to learn that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of its legendary founder Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji.

The ISAG feels proud, honoured and extremely happy for the opportunity provided to organize AGM-2012 and National Seminar in the prestigious Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, under the able guidance of its staff and students. The credit goes to the Department of Geology, Centre of Advanced Study especially Dr. N.V. Chalapathi Rao and his senior Professors.

This AGM occupies a special place in the history of the ISAG. The ISAG has successfully completed one more year of intense academic activity and service to the earth sciences.

We have been organizing the AGMs' successfully at different places in India, thanks to the Indian earth science organizations and academic institutions sponsoring these fruitful & memorable events.

Proposals to organize AGMs and National Seminars are liberally pouring in from National Earth Science Organizations and Academic Institutions. In this connection I am happy to share with you that the next **AGM-2013 is likely to be held at Geology Department, Pune University, Pune.**

The AGMs have always been clubbed with a two or three day Seminar, either sponsored or conducted by the ISAG, as an indelible academic mark of AGMs. Furthermore, it popularizes the Society's commitments for the cause of earth scientists and academicians of this great country. We sincerely hope that this patronage continues and other centers in India will invite the future Seminars-cum -AGMs of ISAG, thereby benefiting both the host and the guest organizations.

On behalf of the EC, and my own behalf, I thank Padmashri Dr. Lalji Singh, Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University for according permission for this 15th AGM-2012 and National Seminar in this prestigious **Department of Geology, Centre of Advanced Study**. I thank the staff of Department particularly Prof. B.K. Ratha, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Hari B. Srivastava, Head, Department of Geology and Prof. Rajesh K. Srivastava for providing an opportunity for ISAG to interact with a cross section of earth science community in this region, particularly from Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

Now coming to this seminar, the articles will be published by JAG, after peer review as per convention. Please submit full articles on or before **31st March 2012** to the Editor, JAG or Dr. N.V. Chalapathi Rao.

Permanent Accommodation: I am happy to inform that the society purchased a two bed room Flat for ISAG office at Nacharam area, near National Geographic Research Institute (NGRI) at Hyderabad.

National Symposium, 2011: The Society organised its 5th National Symposium on "Recent Advances in Applied Geochemistry: Current Status and Future Trends" during 19-21 October 2011 at Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) were the joint-organisers of the event.

Padmashri Prof. Harsh K. Gupta, Panikkar Professor, NGRI, Hyderabad inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Tulsi Mukherjee, Head, Chemistry Group, BARC, Mumbai inaugurated the poster session. Dr. Y.J. Bhaskara Rao, Director, NGRI was the chief guest for valedictory function.

The symposium was highly successful with participation of more than 150 delegates from all sections of earth science organisations like AMD, BARC, GSI, NGRI, NMDC, OIL, ONGC, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Osmania University, Jadhavpur University, Andhra University, Kakatiya University and various other Pvt. Organisations. More than fifty highly informative oral presentations and twenty poster presentations were made during the 3-day symposium.

AMD, BRNS, DST, MoES, NGRI, NMDC, OIL and ONGC extended financial support for the event. On behalf of the Executive Council (EC) and my own behalf, I thank these organisations for the support and encouragement.

I humbly acknowledge the support extended by AMD especially Shri P.B. Maithani, Director of AMD by according necessary permission to hold the Symposium.

I thank Shri P.S. Parihar ji, Shri K. Umamaheswar, Dr. P.V. Ramesh Babu, Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Dr. K. Shiv Kumar and other friends/all the committee members of AMD, and Dr. V. Balaram of NGRI for smooth conduct of the event.

I also thank Prof. Harsh K. Gupta, Shri Rana Som, and Dr. Y.J. Bhaskar Rao for the support and encouragement to the event.

Executive Council: The Executive Council met four (4) times during 2011 to plan and execute the academic activities of the Society. In addition to the regular meetings, the EC met several times informally to take quick decisions in the matters of academic importance.

Administration: There is considerable increase in the daily workload of the society during last few years, especially during and after the symposia and seminars. The Secretary is managing the day to day office work with the two untrained assistants and an office boy with a great effort both physical & mental.

Finances: The total income of the society for the financial year 2010-2011 is **Rs.13,80,530=00** (Rupees thirteen lakhs eighty thousand five hundred and thirty only) and the expenditure **Rs.5,48,290=00** (Rupees five lakhs forty eight thousand two hundred and ninety only). The statement of accounts shows satisfactory financial situation of the Society but at the same time the savings are not sufficient enough to sustain the increase academic activity of the Society and cost.

Till the end of 2007 the finances of the Society were looking fairly good but the inflation, political turmoil for separate Telangana especially in Hyderabad led to delays in schedules and consequent cost escalation, etc leading to financial crisis. However, we are trying to maintain a steady improvement in all academic activities.

The audited statements have been circulated to all the fellows and few copies are kept in the auditorium for the perusal of Members and Delegates. The society will try to cut the expenditure and be economical as far as possible, without compromising the quality of the academic activities.

Grant-in-aid: DST sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees one lakh and fifty thousand only) for the publication of the journal. The EC is grateful to DST for the financial support. However, the EC has requested DST to enhance the grant-in-aid for 2011-2012 financial year in view of inflation.

Financial Support: The Society is extending financial support to “young scientific talent”. Under this programme the Society may support, to a limited extent, the endeavour by active members to participate in National/International Conferences where the R & D work is accepted for presentation.

Publications: One of the major activities of the Society is the publication of a bi-annual Journal, the Journal of Applied Geochemistry (JAG) and theme based Special Volumes. In this respect the Society is going to release a memoir on “Applied Geochemistry: Groundwater Quality Evaluation and Control and special volumes on the proceedings of the AGM-2010, Port Blair, and AGM-2011, Nanded and AGM- 2012, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.

In 2011, two issues of the Journal were released on time and the copies of the Journal are exhausted in a short time. I am happy to inform to this august gathering that the Society continues to receive appreciations about the quality and get-up of the Journal. The editors are working hard on each issue of JAG to show improvement. In this respect a modern printing press “Karshak Printers” has been chosen from 2010 to improve the quality of printing.

We are happy to share with you that the number of articles on environmental issues are more than the articles on experimental geochemistry, exploration geochemistry & applied geochemistry. However, we hope that in future the situation will change and the number of articles on applied geochemistry related themes will be equally abundant.

The response for the Journal is very encouraging. We have already published one issue i.e. Vol. 14. No.1 and as mentioned above, three special volumes are in the pipe line. If the present trend continues with your support and patronage, the Society will start quarterly publication of the Journal subject to financial limitations.

News & Views: However, I must repeat here that the News and Views section introduced in the Journal long back has unfortunately not received adequate patronage because of lack of interest and participation from all sections. We have already mentioned that any preliminary result of scientific importance can be submitted albeit lack of full data support to interest the scientific community. This in future may become viable and useful and may form a basis for future research and may stimulate many young brains.

Colour Photos: A major problem the Society facing is that the authors are submitting articles without following Journal of Applied Geochemists (JAG) format with colour figures and photos. The printing press charges extra for multi-colour printing and the authors have to bear the expenses. The authors should submit original black and white pictures and for multi-colour printing the authors must be ready to pay actual printing charges in advance. The fellows of the Society may kindly note that the society is not imposing block making charges for B&W pictures, for block making.

Institution of Awards: In the year 2010 the Society has instituted “Lifetime Achievement Award” to honour the eminent Earth Scientists.

Future Activities: The Society is planning to institute few more Medals for encouraging the active workers in their respective fields and is looking for the donors. :

- i. Young Indian Scientist Award.
- ii. Best research paper in Petroleum Geochemistry.
- iii. Best research paper in the field of Nuclear Sciences.
- iv. Best research paper in Marine Geochemistry.
- v. Contribution(s) in the Environmental Sciences
- vi. Best research contribution in Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry.

I appeal to funding authorities, donors, institutes, etc to come forward to sponsor these awards or any other suitable award, the funding authority may like to sponsor.

Membership: Members are the strength of any Scientific Society. Although there is a steady growth in Membership of ISAG, it is not adequate. The Society has more number of Life Fellows than Annual Members.

The number of fellows of different categories as on 31st March 2011 is:

		2010	2011
Life Fellows	-	262	275
Annual Fellows	-	025	030
Institutional Members	-	008	009
Libraries (Annual)	-	017	017
Honorary Life Fellows	-	012	012
Corporate Membership	-	002	002

We would like to increase both the categories so that the Society is able to maintain some economy in printing the number of copies of JAG. We request the academicians/scientists to enroll as Members and the existing members should try to mobilize new Members. One of the objectives of holding AGMs outside Hyderabad is to encourage scientists to become Members of the Society. We invite the honorable delegates to enroll as members of the Society, preferably as Life Fellows. I hope that a good number of participants will enroll as Members before the close of two day programme. The membership forms are kept in this hall for your convenience or else you may contact me.

Institutional Membership: The Society is pleased to inform that the libraries of Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) and Post-Graduate Science College, Osmania University at Saifabad, have become Institutional Members of the Society. I appeal to the other earth science organizations and Departments of earth sciences of Universities to enroll as Institutional Members of the Society to extend the services of the ISAG better.

We invite industries to take Corporate Membership for mutual academic/professional benefit.

Review of Manuscripts: The following experts have reviewed the manuscripts sent for evaluation.

Bajpai, R.K.	Mohan, P.M.	Rao, C.R.M.	Srinivasan, R.
Das, S.	Nathan, N.P.	Reddy, A.G.S.	Late Dr. Subba Rao, M.V.
Gurunath Rao, V.	Nirmal Charan	Satyanarayana, K.	Subba Rao, N.
Hanumanth, R.C.	Rama Mohan Rao, T.	Schuiling, R.D.	Sudhakar, M.
Krishnamacharyulu, S.K.G.	Rama Rao, P.	Sesha Sai, V.V.	Suresh, T. S.
Madhunure Pandith	Ramachandra, T.V.	Sharma, D.D.	
Manikyamba, C.	Randive, K.R.	Shiv Kumar, K.	

The Society profusely thanks these reviewers for sparing their valuable time in reviewing the articles.

Acknowledgements: I thank the Executive Council, especially Dr. K.K. Dwivedy, for the wholehearted support and expert advice. I thank Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, Dr. V.P. Dimri, Dr. Y.J Bhaskar Rao, Dr. V. Balaram, Dr. M. Sudhakar, Shri P.B. Maithani, Dr. K. Umamaheswar, Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Dr. T. R. P. Singh, Dr. Kuldeep Chandra, Dr. S. K. Bhushan, Dr. P. Rama Rao, Dr. P.V. Ramesh Babu and Dr. A. G. S. Reddy for their services and support to the Society.

We requested Dr. V.P. Dimri to be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the AGM-2012 being the leading geoscientist and the right person for the occasion. He has very kindly accepted our request. We thank him for the favour.

We will be failing in our duty if we do not thank Dr. Lalji Singh, Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University and Prof. B.K. Ratha, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Hari. B. Srivastava, Head Department of Geology, Prof. Rajesh K. Srivastava, Dr. N.V. Chalapathi Rao and the members of Organizing Committee and other friends for their cooperation, support and services extended to the present National Seminar and AGM-2012.

Dr. Rama Dwivedy, former Regional Director, CGH, Government of India has been taking part in all the AGMs since 2005 and she is here with us today to participate in the AGM. The ISAG is grateful for her interest in the academic activities of the Society and her graceful presence.

Dr. K. Sarojini Devi, former Director of Medical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh is a constant companion to all through my academic life especially during AGMs, providing moral & medical help.

The ISAG gratefully acknowledges the services of Dr. K. Sarojini Devi for providing free furnished accommodation, electricity and water for Society's office and for laking keen interest in the Society. She is here with us today to participate in the AGM.

Besides these, a large number of Fellows and others have helped the Society in several ways and the EC is grateful to all of them.

I am confident that other earth science organizations and academic institutions in the country will come forward to host the future AGM's at their Head Quarters.

23-02-2012

K. Surya Prakash Rao
Hon. Secretary