

President's Page



Dear members! Let me once again wish you all and your families a very happy new year 2005! I also hope that most of you have received the New Year mementos, distributed as a token of our appreciation for your continuous patronage to the society. The January '2005 issue of 'Geohorizons' is in your hands. Bringing out this prestigious journal on schedule has been a challenge and our topmost priority. It is heartening to note that with this issue, we have been able to further reduce the delay in publication and hopefully things will fall in line by the next issue. I thank all the contributors and particularly the editorial board, for responding to the call.

The year 2004 ended on a very sad note with the killer Tsunamis causing havoc in India and many other surrounding regions. This only goes on to show that, in spite of all the technological advancements, how little we know about Mother Nature. This has also thrown a new challenge to the entire geo-scientific community to try and improve the methodology for predicting these catastrophic events. There was a brighter side to the disaster after all! The entire world came together generously to contribute their might for the affected families. SPG, India did its bit by contributing Rs. 50,000/- to the 'Prime Minister's Relief Fund'. However, a more fitting contribution would be to create a Geophysical knowledge archive which may be helpful in predicting such natural disasters and hopefully averting the enormous loss of human life and property. Similar views were expressed by President SEG during his recent visit to India.

On the society front, the New Year began on a bright note with Dr. Craig Beasley, President, SEG choosing SPG, India as one of the first fellow societies, to visit and interact with. Accordingly, a talk by Dr. Beasley was organized at Mumbai chapter in January '05, which was attended by around 100 members from various SPG chapters. Dr. Beasley also delivered two key note addresses at Petrotech-2005 held in New Delhi during January 16-19, 2005. The forthcoming SPG conference 'Kolkata-2006' was also launched officially by President, SEG at the SPG booth in Petrotech-2005.

With this launch, comes a huge responsibility and a big commitment to make the event a great success! This can not be achieved without each member making a contribution, be it formulating the event, contributing technical papers, giving ideas as how to improve on our last event and so on. I appeal to all of you to come forward with suggestions and technical contributions in planning this mega event. You will find relevant details of 'Kolkata-2006' in this issue.

SPG website serves as the common link connecting more than 1200 SPG members world over. The website needs regular updating to make it lively and interactive. We have tried to make the website more interactive during the last few months with the facility of updating membership database/details by the members themselves. However, very few members are availing this facility, which is very disappointing. The executive bodies of all the regional chapters should take a lead in this regard and come up with suggestions to improve and enrich our website and bring it to SEG standards.

The activities conducted by various SPG chapters during the last couple of months also find their due place in this issue and I shall not repeat them here. One important development during the last couple of months has been the move to empanel some of the SPG members as SEG continuing education faculty members for the Asia-Pacific region. Based on the nominations received from the regional chapters, the short-listing was done by a committee and the names have been forwarded to President, SEG for final selection.

As we decided earlier, our endeavor is to ensure greater participation of the representatives in the national/international geophysical conferences. One representative from Jorhat chapter is likely to participate in EAGE-2005 along with another member from SPG, India. In return, the society only expects all the regional chapters to come forward in accelerating all the society activities. I think one of our main priorities at the moment should be a membership renewal/enrolment drive for 2005.

I hope all of us will rise to the task that is in front of us, i.e. taking the society to greater heights on the global platform, without losing the linkage with our grass root members.

I wish you all a very happy reading!



(Apurba Saha)
President