

7th

International Conference

on

Geoscience Education (GeoSciEd)

September 5-9, 2014
Hyderabad, INDIA

Organised by:
University of Hyderabad
Hyderabad, India



GENERAL

Geosciences play a seminal role in the exploration and extraction of mineral resources, water resources and earth materials, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural and human-made hazards, addressing the issues of global warming, climate change, environmental pollution etc. Integrated study of the dynamic processes that formed and modify our solid Earth, its oceans and atmosphere, and its position in the universe underpins all these key areas of scientific understanding. Despite this, there is an alarmingly low level of earth science literacy and awareness among school students, and the public at large. This leads to bright and talented students taking to medicine, engineering and other fields merely due to a lack of understanding of the possibilities of higher education and exciting and challenging careers in geosciences. This scenario warrants stepping up of efforts to enhance awareness of geosciences and improve the quality of teaching geosciences at all levels. With this mission at its core, the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO; <http://www.geoscied.org/>) promotes the International Conference on 'Geoscience Education' (GeoSciEd). The seventh in the series will be held in Hyderabad, India, during September 5-9, 2014.

The main objective of the conference is to bring together leading academicians, scientists, researchers, graduate students and others whose mandate/interest is to promote geoscience education at the school-, college- and university-levels and among the general public. The 7th GeoSciEd will be a critical forum for discussion and exchange of ideas, expertise, experiences and knowledge concerning all aspects of geoscience education (i.e., teaching of solid earth, oceans, atmosphere and astronomy). It is hoped that at the end of the conference, the participants would identify the hurdles in achieving IGEO's goal of 'promoting GeoScience education worldwide' and recommend steps to spread geoscience literacy and improve the way geoscience is taught in schools across the world.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The conference will primarily focus on, but not limited to, the following themes/sessions and round-table discussions:

1. *International Geoscience Syllabus*

2. *Geoscience Teaching Methodology:*

- Geoscience Teaching Practices - Classroom
- Geoscience Teaching Practices - Field
- Digital Learning in Geosciences

3. *Experiences in Geoscience Education:*

- Geoscience Teaching in Primary Schools
- Geoscience Teaching in Secondary Schools
- Geoscience Teaching in Universities
- International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO)
- Geoscience Education Experiences in the context of Environmental Education

4. *Geoscience Teacher Training Programs - Initial and Continuing*

5. *Geoscience Education through Non-Formal Means:*

- Geoscience Learning in Out-of-school context (such as Geotourism and Geoparks, Natural History Museums, Science Centers, Nature Centers, Home and Community Centers)
- Geological Hazards Education and Communication

Round-Table Discussions:

- Geoscience Education Research: Outlook for the next four years
- Geoethics: A new point of view for Geoscience Education
- The impact of IESO and other competitions on Geoscience Education worldwide
- Geosciences in international assessment tests for students
- Geoscience Education in the context of local environment and society
- What type of Geoscience Education is relevant to the Developing Countries?

New sessions may be added depending on the papers that will be received. Papers may be presented either orally or in the form of posters.

A session will be dedicated to the memory of Dr David Thompson, an earth science educator *par excellence*, who passed away on July 21, 2013. Another important activity during the conference will be the launch of the International Geoscience Education syllabus which has recently been prepared by Chris King under the aegis of IGEO, after considering the earth science components of school syllabus from different countries.

There will be a one-day field work in and around Hyderabad with a sharp focus on geoscience educational aspects. An exhibition is planned where geological societies, geological surveys, companies, publishers and educational institutions may exhibit and sell their products, books, publications etc. A geological exhibition will be organized prior to and during the conference for the benefit of the participants, school and college students and teachers and the public at large. Post-conference field trips (about five days' duration each) have been planned:

1. Deccan Traps
2. Ariyalur fossil fields / Neyveli lignite mines
3. Coastal processes and landforms
4. Singareni Collieries
5. Lonar Crater
6. Cuddappah Basin

Participation in field trips will be on payment. Details of the field trips will be provided in the second circular. Only field trips which have the minimum number of participants will be run.

It is planned to organize one or two pre-conference training workshops for the benefit of school teachers. They will be of about 1-2 days' duration. Participation will be on payment of registration fee. Further details will be provided in the second circular.

A General Body Meeting of IGEO will be held during the 7th GeoSciEd. Items of agenda pertaining to the activities and action plans of the organization will be discussed and elections to the various offices of IGEO held for the quadrennium 2014-2018. Host country for the 8th GeoSciEd will be decided too.

A conference dinner and social/cultural events have been planned for the participants of the conference. Sight-seeing trips will be organized for accompanying persons.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Authors of papers are invited to submit the abstract of their papers (400-500 words long) in English. The abstracts should reach the Organising Secretary, 7th GeoSciEd (geoscied2014@yahoo.com) by July 15, 2014. Authors are also required to indicate their preferred mode of presentation: a) oral, b) poster, c) either. They will be intimated in due course about the acceptance and mode of presentation of the paper.

Full papers presented at the conference will be peer-reviewed and published in a reputed international journal dealing with geoscience education such as Journal of Geoscience Education.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee will be 200 Euros. Participants from Third World countries may request for a reduced rate or waiver of registration fee. Registration fee for accompanying persons will be 100 Euros.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will be organized on the campus of the University of Hyderabad located in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Founded in 1974, the University is a seat of higher learning and advanced research in Southern India. It has been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council at the A***** level, the highest possible in the grading system. It is counted among the top 100 universities in Asia in several areas of academic pursuit. It has also been recognised as a "University with Potential for Excellence" and hence will receive additional funds and support from the government to sustain and enhance the quality of education and research. The main strength of the university is its distinguished faculty members, numbering about 400. Many have been conferred with fellowships of national and international science academies and awards. The University has a student strength of 5000 and offers as many as 150 programs of study ranging from Master's to doctoral level. Besides, a variety of post-graduate diplomas and short courses are on the menu through distance education. It is home to a number of academic institutions and has a vibrant atmosphere for intellectual growth. The University attracts a large number of foreign students who opt for programs in art, culture, languages, and science disciplines under the 'Study in India Programme'.

HOST CITY

Hyderabad is the capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh. Located at an altitude of 542 meters and spread over an area of 650 km² along the banks of the Musi River, it has a population of 6.8 million. Being one of the hubs of IT activities in the country, Hyderabad is nicknamed Cyberabad!

The dynasties that ruled this city have left an indelible mark on the culture, architecture, literature, cuisine and other aspects of Hyderabad. Important sight-seeing places include Charminar, Golkonda Fort, Hussain Sagar Lake, Salar Jung Museum and Birla Temple. Hyderabad is India's second-largest producer of motion pictures. It is well connected by rail, road, and air. It has a modern airport, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, which is connected to several important cities of the world. Weather during September is expected to be pleasant, with the daily mean temperature hovering around 26.6 °C (79.9° F).

ACCOMMODATION

From 5-star to budget hotels, Hyderabad offers accommodation and hospitality to everyone's taste and budget. Efforts are being made to negotiate for discounted tariffs with hotels near the conference venue and low-cost accommodation for participants from the Third World. Further details will be available in the second circular.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for submission of Abstracts	July 15, 2014
End of early-bird registration (@ 200 Euros; @ 100 Euros for accompanying persons)	August 1, 2014
Start of enhanced rate of registration (@ 250 Euros; @ 150 Euros for accompanying persons)	August 2, 2014
Notification of acceptance of Abstracts	July 25, 2014

Participants cancelling their registration by August 01, 2014 will be refunded 60% of the registration fee; no money will be refunded if registration is cancelled after August 20, 2014.

Contact details of Organising Secretaries:

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