

Successful South Asian Bid for holding IGC-2020 – Dr. D.M. Banerjee, Chair: INSA National Committee for IUGS and Ashok Singhvi Chair: IGC2020 Bid Committee

The Indian National Committee on IUGS proposed that India makes a bid to bring the 36th International Congress to the sub continent in 2020 (IGC-2020). In addition, it was considered appropriate that this bid was made jointly with the neighbouring countries such that the main scientific congress is held in Delhi and that there will be option of field trips with in India and in the partner countries, viz. Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The theme of the Congress was chosen as **Geosciences: the Basic Science for a Sustainable Future**.

A fifteen member team from the Ministry of Mines and GSI led by Secretary (Mines) Dr. Vishwa Pati Trivedi and a four member team of the Ministry of Earth Sciences led by its Secretary, Dr. Shailesh Nayak, participated in the International Geological Congress in Australia from 4th

to 11th August 2012. These two Ministerial teams formed part of the Indian delegation lead by Prof D.M. Banerjee, (Chair INSA IUGS Committee). The Ministry of Earth Sciences additionally provided funds for the participation of 20 carefully selected scientists from all over the country for presentation of their research papers in various sessions of the Congress.

The first presentation of the bid was made to the International Geological Congress Committee on the 4th August, 2012 by Dr. Shailesh Nayak which was preceded by brief introductory remarks by Prof. D.M. Banerjee. This was followed by the pitch film. The second presentation to the IUGS Council comprising representatives of over 120 countries was made by Prof. A.K. Singhvi on August 9th, 2012. This was preceded by a brief introduction and statement on the commitment of the

Government of India by Dr. Vishwa Pati Trivedi. The voting for the bid took place on 9th August, 2012 immediately after the presentations by the Indian and the Canadian delegations. The South Asian bid received an overwhelming response with 128 votes in its favor as against 51 votes for Canada.

This mandate implies that the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) will be held in Delhi in 2020. The event will be organized by the Geological Survey of India under the aegis of Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Indian National Science Academy will be the nodal contact point with the IGCC and IUGS and will help develop the Scientific Programs. The venue of the Congress will be the India Expo Centre and Mart located in Greater NOIDA in the NCR.