



SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-09

Mr. President and distinguished Fellows

On behalf of the Palaeontological Society of India and on my own behalf, I extend you all most cordial welcome on the Annual General Meeting of the society.

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the activities of the Palaeontological society of India for the preceding year 2008-09 before you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007-08

The last Annual General Meeting of the society was held on 1st March 2008 at the centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Lucknow University, under the chairmanship of Prof. B.S. Tewari, the President of the society. Forty Fellows attended the meeting. Prof. M.P. Singh, the Secretary read the notice of the meeting followed by the presentation of the Annual Report. The Secretary apprised fellows regarding efforts being made to procure financial assistance from different Governmental and other funding agencies. Dr. Mukund Sharma suggested to explore the possibility of speedy publication of significant findings of academic importance in the journal of the society. Matter was referred to the Editors for the follow up action. Dr. V.P. Misra, the Joint Secretary, Palaeontological Society of India suggested that there is an urgent need of revision of the society's Directory as many addresses and phone numbers of fellows have changed. Fellows are requested to furnish their personal data (Address, Phone No. especially mobile), etc. to Dr. Misra through mail or e-mail-mishravijaip@yahoo.com, fax. No. 0522-2376407.

The Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2007-08 was presented by Prof. S. Kumar, Treasurer of the society. As there were no comments, the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts were adopted.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Executive council of the Palaeontological society of India met five times during last year for transacting business of the society. In these meetings, the organization of seminars, symposia, field meetings, lectures and visits of geoscientists were planned, discussed and arranged besides conducting routing business concerning publication and financial matters.

LECTURES

26th M.R. Sahni Memorial Lecture was delivered on 1st March 2008 by Prof. P.K. Saraswati of I.I.T. Mumbai on "Life history of foraminifera: stable isotopic and Elemental Proxies."

10th S.N. Singh Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. K. Ayyasami, Director (Technical), Department of Mines, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India, New Delhi. He spoke on, "Faunal Succession and ammonite Biostratigraphy of the Cretaceous Rocks of Ariyalur area, Tamil Nadu".

Dr. S. Mukherjee, Director, Geological Survey of India, Faridabad gave a talk on "Antarctica".

Besides this, the scientists from N.G.R.I., O.N.G.C., G.S.I.,

W.I.H.G. also visited the society and interacted with the fellows of the Society.

M.R. SAHNI GOLD MEDAL

Last year, M.R. Sahni Memorial Gold Medal sponsored by the Palaeontological society of India was awarded to Mr. Gaurav Singh for securing highest percentage of marks in Palaeontology Paper at M.Sc. (2008) examination of the Lucknow University.

PROF. S. N. BHALLA GOLD MEDAL

For outstanding contribution in the field of micropalaeontology, Prof. S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal has been awarded to Dr. Anil Bhandari, General Manager (Geology), Forward Base Manager, O.N.G.C., Silchar (Assam).

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

During last year, three new Life Fellows have joined the Society. Present membership is as follows:

Life Fellow	-	248
Fellow	-	18
Total	-	266

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The Society is continuing exchange of its Publication with sister organizations of other nations, the prominent among them being Peoples Republic of China, South Africa, Poland, Italy and the Netherlands.

PUBLICATION

The major activity of the Society continues to be the publication of the Journal of the Palaeontological Society of India. On persistent demand from fellows, the Society has started publishing the journal biannually, one issue in June and other in December since 2005. The current volume 53, Part II has already been released in December 2008.

The society has also published an Atlas of Jurassic Ostracodes from western India" authored by Prof. S.C. Khosla *et al.*, M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The financial assistance of Rs. 50,000/= from D.S.T., New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged.

The Society is deeply obliged to the Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Lucknow University for extending all possible help and facilities. I would also like to thank numerous scientists from India and abroad for reviewing research papers submitted to our Journal for publication. Special thanks are due to Prof. A.K. Jauhri and Prof. S. Kumar, editors for maintaining high quality of publications.

I am personally obliged to all members of the Executive Council for their unreserved help, guidance and assistance in the smooth functioning of the society.