

Transactions

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**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF POONA
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NOTES AND NEWS

Second International Conference on Geomorphology

The Second International Conference on Geomorphology was held at the University of Frankfurt am Main from September 3rd to 8th, 1989. The conference was organized by the German Working Committee of Geomorphology under the chairmanship of Professor Dietrich Barsch. The conference was attended by more than six hundred delegates including nine from India. Most European countries were well represented especially the French Group of Geomorphology which had reviewed their "Recent Advances in Geomorphology" in a special bilingual conference volume. There were numerous participants from the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa. There was a sizable number of delegates from China and Japan. The very active Japanese Geomorphological Union had dedicated the 10th Anniversary Volume of their "Transactions" to the "History of Geomorphology" in different countries arranged in alphabetical order. The contribution on Indian geomorphology is written by R. K. Rai. Besides India and Bangladesh, delegates from tropical countries came from Central and South America (Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Columbia), Africa (Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia), and South-East Asia (Malaysia, Papua New Guinea) and French Polynesia.

The German contribution to the conference were besides the general organization of the Conference, symposia and excursions: "Landforms and Landform Evolution in West Germany" edited by Frank Ahnert, a high standard and superb quality Catena publication (Catena

Supplement 15), and the Abstract Volume edited by Oetlef Busche, a very clearly and beautifully arranged and well edited Geoko publication (Geoko plus 1).

The conference center at the University Frankfurt am Main represented an architecturally austere and functional interior, livened up by exhibitions, poster sessions and groups of actively discussing delegates. The center offered ten well equipped lecture halls in which different sessions could take place simultaneously. The conference programme included, according to the major themes, nine sections, each having a number of subsections. The first section was dedicated to the focal theme "Geomorphology and Geocology." This section alone had nine subsections with twenty-one total sessions ranging from soil, weathering, water to erosional research, ecosystems, high mountain geomorphology and geomorphological hazards. Thus one had to choose one's prior field of interest in order to gain from the deliberations. Each lecture session of ninety minutes duration and, on an average, four presentations would attract geomorphologists of the same specialization and include lively and applied discussions.

The second half of the morning was reserved for the main session in the large auditorium where the delegates would assemble to listen to the invited lectures to the different sections: A. S. Goudi on "Human Impact and Geomorphological Change," D. Coates on "Perspectives of Environmental Geomorphology," M. Kirkby "The Landscape viewed through

Models," etc. In his evening lecture "Tablets of Stone? towards ten Commandments of Geomorphology" D. Erunsden drew renewed attention to the importance of tectonics and structural geomorphology. D. Barsch, chairman of the conference, delivered a lecture on the focal theme "Geomorphology and Geocology" during the opening ceremony of

the conference.

In retrospective, the often brilliant, scholarly and well documented general lectures, the interactions with fellow geomorphologists and above all the ambience of the serious and applied lecture sessions have made the conference a success.

**IGU Seminar on
MONITORING GEOSYSTEMS
PERSPECTIVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

DATE AND VENUE:

Technical Session: 6-9 December, 1991; Delhi.

Field Excursion: 10-13 December, 1991; Indian Himalayas (Total cost approx. US \$ 300)

INTERNATIONAL PATRONAGE:

IGU Commission on Geographical Monitoring and forecasting.

IGU Commission on Mountain Geocology and Resource Management.
UNITAR European office.

FOCAL THEME:

Monitoring and Forecasting Environmental Transformation; Human Responses and Sustainable Development; Special Discussion Session on Global Change and South Asia.

REGISTRATION FEE:

India: Indian Rs. 400/-; South Asian Countries: Indian Rs. 1,000/-; Other Countries: US \$ 100/-.

DEADLINES:

March 31, 1991: Submission of Abstract (1 page)- June 30, 1991: Submission of Full Paper.

PUBLICATION:

Pre-proceeding for the Seminar will include the contributions received before June 30, 1991.

FOR DETAILS WRITE TO

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